Hafa Adai!

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Guam reports 2 COVID-19-related deaths; 142 new cases. PAGE 2
No judge to hear Anaks homeowner's petition vs Zoning board. PAGE 3

LibDay Parade's winning floats get $15K

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

A total amount of $15,500 in prize money was presented yesterday morning at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe to the 10 groups whose floats won the Best Float competition of the 2022 Liberation Day Parade last July 4.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and special assistant Henry Hofschneider presented the cash prizes to the 10 organizations that placed first to sixth place, with the

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Members of the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs receive their cash prize from Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, sixth from left after winning first place in the Best Float Competition of the 2022 Liberation Day Parade last July 4, 2022. The group received the award during an awards presentation yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe. CHRYSTAL MARINO

No IPI-CCC settlement yet

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Sister companies Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the Commonwealth Casino Commission have yet to finalize a settlement agreement despite informing the U.S. District Court for the NMI earlier that one would be executed by July 18.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

BSI, IPI, and CCC appeared before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona last week to inform the court that their long-awaited settlement agreement is expected to be finalized and executed by July 18. However, according to a credible source, as of 7:30pm press time, no settlement has been executed yet as negotiations between the parties continue.

"We still need to finalize some terms," said the source.

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IRP team recovers WWII dog tag

A military identification tag—commonly referred to as a "dog tag"—that was lost on Saipan during World War II has been found and returned to the descendants of its original owner.

The Infrastructure and Recovery Program under the CNMI Office of the Governor announced yesterday the recovery of the World War II dog tag by the IRP archeological team during archeological testing work in San Jose in advance of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.-funded sewer and drainage project.

In April 2022, IRP archaeologists Jeremy Freeman and Scott Bierly and anthropologist Keona DLG Torres recovered a suspected military identification tag—or "dog tag"—while undertaking subsurface testing on the southwest coast of Saipan in advance of the NMHC sewer line and drainage project. The artifact was recovered in screened soil excavated from a backhoe trench located on the western edge of Apengagh Avenue, roughly 55 meters southwest of the Catholic Church in San Jose Village, Saipan.

File photo shows William Conrad Stoll Jr. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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BECAUSE OF COVID-19

25M kids missed routine vaccinations

GENEVA (AP)—About 25 million children worldwide have missed out on routine immunizations against common diseases like diptheria, largely because the coronavirus pandemic disrupted regular health services or triggered misinformation about vaccines, according to the U.N.

In a new report published Friday, the World Health Organization and UNICEF said their figures show 25 million children last year failed to get vaccinated against diptheria, tetanus and pertussis, a marker for childhood immunization coverage, continuing a down-

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INSIDE

NATION
"Egregiously poor decision-making" resulted in more than an hour of chaos at Uvalde Elementary.

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ASIA
Sri Lanka's acting president declares a state of emergency giving him broad authority.

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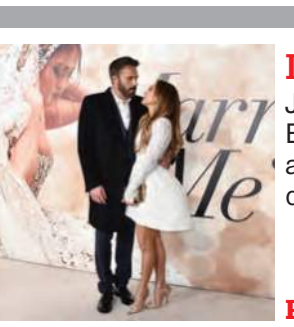

LIFE & STYLE
Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are wed in a late-night Las Vegas drive-through chapel.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Guam reports 2 COVID-19-related deaths; 142 new cases

The Guam Joint Information Center reported two COVID-19-related fatalities last Friday, as well as 142 new cases.

The 375th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City on June 30, 2022. The patient was a 41-year-old female, unvaccinated with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on June 30.

The 376th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at GRMC on July 7, 2022. The patient was a 74-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on June 23.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of more members of our community. We extend our sincerest condolences and sympathies to their families and friends," said acting governor Josh Tenorio. "With each loss, we are reminded that we must continue to do better to protect ourselves and those we love. We strongly urge everyone eligible to update their defenses with vaccines, and the first and second booster."

Also, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported Friday 142 new cases of COVID-19 from 1,403 specimens collected July 14, 2022. Fourteen of the cases reported are through the Department of Defense.

To date, there have been a total of 53,601 officially reported cases in Guam, 376 deaths, 1,194 cases in active isolation, and 52,031 not in active isolation. ***(PR)***

MARPO HEIGHTS ROAD PROJECT U.S. NAVY/HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 3RD CLASS ELIJAH ANTOR

Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, and Marines, with the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, operate a paver to lay down asphalt on the Marpo Heights road project in Tinian.

NMC to host 3rd FAFSA workshop on July 20

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a third financial aid workshop for interested community members and students looking to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The free workshop will be held at the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library on July 20, 2022, from 1pm to 3pm.

For the upcoming academic year, students will be able to avail of up to $6,895 in federal financial aid. NMC encourages all college students to take advantage of the opportunity before the application deadline on Aug. 1, 2022.

Workshop participants can also have their scholarship documents and other paperwork photocopied free of charge. Participants will also qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived.

Participants are encouraged to bring documents such as valid identification (passport or birth certificate), copies of their high school diploma, copies of official transcripts, and tax return information for the years 2020 and 2021.

NMC will also be hosting additional workshops on the following dates:

- Tuesday, July 26, from 9am – 11am and 4pm – 6pm
- Thursday July 28, from 10am – 12pm and 4pm – 6pm

For more information contact the Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or at 237-6791/2/3/4. ***(NMC)***

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

- July 20, 2022 – How to Get HUBZone Certified - All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the certification process, the required supporting documents, and follow-up requirements from SBA.
- July 28, 2022 – How to Get WOSB Certified - WOSB is an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

To register, visit**:** https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Man charged with illegal possession of firearm pleads not guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man indicted for allegedly possessing a firearm illegally has pleaded not guilty before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

MD Ikbal appeared before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy last week for his initial appearance, during which Ikbal, an illegal alien, pleaded not guilty to the charge of illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

Kennedy scheduled Ikbal for a detention hearing today, July 19, at 3:30pm, and his jury trial has been set for Sept. 12 at 10am.

Ikbal's court-appointed attorney, David Banes, waived the reading of the charge against his client and the reading of his rights.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr. appeared for the federal government.

According to court documents, Ikbal was arrested back in June 13, pursuant to a warrant signed by the court for one count of illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

However, the defendant was only indicted by a grand jury last June 28.

"Ikbal, on or about May 5, 2022, then being an alien illegally and unlawfully in the United States, did unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly possess a firearm, to wit, a .40 caliber handgun, Glock model 22, serial number WHZ254, in and affecting interstate commerce," the indictment stated.

In addition, the indictment stated that upon conviction, Ikbal must forfeit any firearm he possesses.

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No judge to hear Anaks homeowner's petition vs Zoning board

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

All five Superior Court judges have recused themselves from hearing the petition a homeowners' association had submitted against a planned car dealership in the vicinity of the Anaks Ocean View property.

The petition, submitted by the Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan Homeowners' Association Limited, wants the Superior Court to review the Commonwealth Zoning board's decision to grant a conditional permit use application for Atkins Kroll's Lexus dealership and repair and autobody shop in Puerto Rico.

However, according to the recusal order filed by Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, he said that conflict exists with him handling the case.

Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan said he is a resident and owner of a property involved in this litigation and therefore he cannot handle the case.

As for Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Associate Judges Kenneth L. Govendo, and Teresa Kim-Tenorio, they said their impartiality might be questioned, which is why they recuse themselves from hearing the suit.

A judge has yet to be assigned to the case.

According to the lawsuit, Anaks' homeowner community wants the court to issue an order setting aside Zoning board Order 2022-1-03, and direct the board to revoke Conditional Use Permit 2020-10382.

The group also petitioned the court to issue a preliminary injunction prohibiting construction on Lot EA 496-R1 under Conditional Use Permit 2020-10382 until a full review has been concluded.

The 25-page petition for review states that the board issued its Zoning board Order 2022-1-03 on April 21, 2022, granting a conditional use application for a car dealership on a lot immediately adjacent to Anaks Ocean View.

The Zoning board permitted an industrial use on Lot EA 896-R, a car dealership, including an "extremely large, 27-bay repair and autobody shop with unknown, but inevitably significant impacts."

"The Zoning board's decision permitting the project is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law under the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC § 9112(f)(2)(i), because the Zoning board either did not apply or improperly applied the legal criteria of the Saipan Zoning Law or SZL of 2013, as amended, 10 CMC § 3511 to the proposed project," the petition states.

It added that the Zoning board's failure to properly apply the SZL and take a hard look at the propriety of siting an industrial use next to a residential community may have resulted in additional legal failures by the Zoning board.

According to the petition, these include the failure to hire a professional planner with the required credentials as staff to the board, and the failure to evaluate the proposal in the context of a zoning plan that is economically neutral and protects Anaks from potential nuisances.

"Anaks repeatedly requested more time to submit information to the board and a contested case hearing. The board, however, provided Anaks neither actual notice of the proceedings nor an adequate opportunity to be heard. Finally, [the] Zoning board's decision to approve the conditional use permit without rigorously evaluating the impact on the vicinity generally and on the residents of Anaks Ocean View specifically violate…the right to a clean and healthful environment," the petition stated.

OIA: $555,765 to restore man-made landscape disturbances in territories

» Applications are due via www.Grants.gov by Aug. 1

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced that $555,765 has been made available under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to restore native vegetation and mitigate environmental hazards on mined land, both federal and non-federal.

"This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investment for the territories provides a unique opportunity to restore any damage that has been done in dredged or mined areas in the territories, which qualify for this funding," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "We encourage the territories to take advantage of this opportunity to mitigate damages and restore natural landscapes, shorelines, or environments."

Nakoa

Examples of man-made activities that have disturbed landscapes or shorelines could include but are not limited to sand/gravel/coral mining where such materials have been extracted or dredged from the land, beaches, inland dunes, the ocean, and riverbeds. Such activities are often used to support manufacturing, construction, and road development. Funding has been prioritized to mitigate these landscape disturbances utilizing native vegetation and local natural resources.

OIA encourages applications from the territories for Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. Applications must be submitted via www.grants.gov under CFDA# 15.875 for the Office of Insular Affairs and are due by August 1, 2022.

Look for future announcements related to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for the territories that can be used to combat invasive species, propagate native vegetation, and restore recreational lands. ***(OIA)***

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Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on ***Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 8:30a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the BPL-HCPLB Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/25/2022)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- New Legal Counsel – Leslie Healer
- Letter from Juan I. Castro, Jr.
- NCEES Annual Business Meeting August 23 – 26, 2022, Carlsbad, California.

VII. Director's Report
- 2022 Financial Report
- BPL New Website: http://www.cnmilicensing.com
- Office Email Address: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
- Acquiring a New Vehicle for Office Use

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
A. Continuing Education Requirements
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

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- Thursday, July 21st 9:00am - 4:00pm

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House overrides Hofschneider's veto of appropriation bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives united yesterday to override then-acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) veto of a local bill that would appropriate a total of $430,000 in unobligated funds collected from the casino license fee paid by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

House Local Bill 22-31, authored by Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), would appropriate $350,000 to the Saipan Mayor's Office for his operations, and $80,000 to the Kagman Watershed Project.

At yesterday's House session, all 17 House members present voted "yes" to the override. Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) abstained. Two representatives were absent.

Of particular interest to Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) was the part where Hofschneider vetoed the $80,000 for the ongoing Kagman Watershed Project. Staffler said the reasoning that Hofschneider gave for vetoing the bill were the "assurances provided by correlating departments and agencies that this project will be prioritized and provided with adequate and related federal funding assistance within the coming months."

She said they met with the funding and the federal partners who have been part of this very long project since 2001 or 2003.

"The money that this would have been appropriated…would be used to help maintain the project site because, since pandemic it has been overgrown, and the many beautiful birds and animals that we love are also taking over in the spaces, which will make it harder to complete the project in the future," Staffler said.

She said this $80,000 is critical to maintaining the site so the project can be finally finished.

Staffler said that, although this watershed project is named the Kagman Watershed Project, this is actually a project that will help many people in the entire Saipan community—fisherman and farmers alike.

"This project is something that was created as a pilot that would be the model for the Pacific in managing watersheds and collaborating with farming resources as well," she said.

Staffler said she disagrees with Hofschneifer's veto of the bill and hope that they can do something about it as a body.

In echoing the sentiments of those who have spoken about the veto, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said she would offer a motion to override.

Vice speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) said that, with the Kagman Watershed Project, those monies were appropriated by the delegation because it's the responsibility of the local level to pay the matching fund.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Probationer who pleaded guilty to assault gets one-year prison term

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a one-year prison sentence on a man who pleaded guilty to assaulting another individual while on probation.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Lee Roy Camacho Villagomez last week to an imprisonment term of 12 months for assault and battery while on probation, with the first six months to be served day-for-day without the possibility of parole.

Villagomez was actually sentenced to 19 months in prison. However, six months and 45 days of his sentence was suspended and will hang over his head and will be imposed if he violates his probation again.

In addition, Villagomez was ordered to pay a $200 fine and $25 in costs. He will also be placed on probation for three years beginning immediately after serving his sentence.

After the hearing, Villagomez was taken into custody to start serving his sentence at the Department of Corrections.

Villagomez was represented by lawyer Joey San Nicolas, while assistant attorney general Steven Kessel appeared for the government.

Camacho's judgment and commitment order noted that on Aug. 14, 2014, Villagomez was found guilty of disturbing the peace and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, all suspended except for 15 days, with credit for 15 days of time already served.

In that case, Villagomez was placed on probation for six months subject to conditions that included the condition that he obey all CNMI, state, and federal laws.

But on Nov. 10, 2014, during the period of his probation, Villagomez was charged with several new criminal violations, including assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, last July 13, Villagomez, 37, pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, in criminal case No. 14-0120, and violation of probation, in criminal case No. 13-0209.

LIBDAY

From Page 1

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs' float depiction of "Camp Susupe" taking the first-place prize of $5,000.

Four organizations that tied in second place—the Man Amko' Office on Aging, Diaspora of the FSM in Saipan, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Commerce—split the second place prize money of $4,000, with each one taking home $1,000.

The third-place winners, which was also a tie between Triple J and *Marianas Variety*, each received $1,500, after splitting the $3,000 prize money.

Taking the lump sum of $2,000 in fourth place was Kirida-Highlands Lawn Care. The Office of Governor received $1,000 for fifth place, and 180 Productions under Victory Chapel rounded out the winning list and received $500 for sixth place.

Representatives of each organization were present for the event except for the Man Amko' Office on Aging and the Diaspora of the FSM in Saipan.

"I just want to say thank you to all the participants for this year's Liberation [Day parade]. They did a great job coming out with their floats at the last minute. People were excited to see that many floats out there this year," said Apatang after the award presentation.

Apatang recounted that he and his team had been debating whether or not there would be a Liberation Day event this year because of their concerns about COVID-19, but seeing the public's response and participation in events such as the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 convinced them to proceed with the celebration and he is glad they did that. "I think it's about time that the people come out and enjoy themselves [as part of] going back to normal ," he said.

Also noting that this year's celebration had the biggest number of concession participation, Apatang said he'd also like to thank all businesses and food vendors that participated in the Liberation Day event.

IPI-CCC

From Page 1

Last Tuesday, the parties involved told the court that their negotiations were "well-advanced" and that they expect to finalize and execute a settlement agreement by July 18.

Because of this, Manglona ordered the parties to notify the court yesterday once the agreement is finalized. She did say, though, that if the parties fail to finalize and execute a settlement agreement by yesterday, CCC must file an opposition to IPI and BSI's motion for preliminary injunction by July 22. IPI, for its part, must file any reply by July 29.

In addition, Manglona said in the event a settlement agreement does not pull through by July 18, a hearing on the plaintiff's motion is set for Thursday, Aug. 18, at 8:30am.

During last Tuesday's hearing, IPI's financier, IH Group, as represented by Kyu Nam Kim, told the court that a sufficient investment is underway to assure IPI's ability to make the financial commitment required by the settlement agreement but she did not specify the amount IPI is expecting to receive.

In a previous court document, IPI informed the court that they were expecting a $150-million investment from IH Group.

Saipan Tribune learned from a credible source that IPI anticipates to receive the first $10 million of the investment by the end of June.

No reports have been made yet on these investments.

IPI previously filed a complaint against CCC and took out a temporary restraining order against the commission to prohibit it from moving forward with a hearing to revoke IPI's exclusive casino commission.

According to court documents, IPI filed their complaint and emergency motion for a TRO last May 23. The court issued the TRO on May 23, ordering the CCC to cease and desist from proceeding with enforcement action 2021-001-005, including convening the enforcement hearing scheduled for May 24-25.

The parties appeared before the court for a status conference on May 25, where the defendants asked for more time to respond to IPI's emergency motion.

Following the status conference, the court issued an order extending CCC's deadline to file its opposition to IPI to May 31, with plaintiff's reply due June 2.

Based on a stipulation by the parties filed on May 31, the court entered an order extending the TRO and granting the joint stipulated motion to stay briefing on IPI's motion due to the parties' significant progress toward a settlement.

According to the order, the court extended the TRO through July 8, and stayed the briefing on the plaintiffs' complaint and emergency motion for TRO for a period of 30 days.

IRP

From Page 1

Background research conducted by IRP staff revealed that the tag belonged to William Conrad Stoll Jr., who was in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and participated in the World War II Battle of Saipan as a captain and executive officer of the Marine's 5th Amphibious Tractor Battalion. The tag was found on the actual invasion beach where Stoll fought during the first three days of the battle. After Saipan, Stoll participated in the amphibious invasions of Tinian and Iwo Jima. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1962 with the rank of lieutenant colonel and passed away in 2008.

Upon the completion of the research, IRP staff met with Historic Preservation officer Rita Chong-Dela Cruz, and it was mutually agreed that the identification tag was to be returned to Stoll's family. Consultations with Katherine Stoll Bushong, Stoll's eldest surviving child, have been completed. She has informed IRP that she plans to pass this artifact on to her son, who is a Marine Corps veteran.

Bushong expressed her gratitude for the efforts that IRP invested in researching the history of the tag and for bringing this discovery to the attention of her family. The tag will soon be returned to Bushong and her family. ***(IRP)***

25M

From Page 1

ward trend that began in 2019.

"This is a red alert for child health," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF's Executive Director.

"We are witnessing the largest sustained drop in childhood immunization in a generation," she said, adding that the consequences would be measured in lives lost.

Data showed the vast majority of the children who failed to get immunized were living in developing countries, namely Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines. While vaccine coverage fell in every world region, the worst effects were seen in East Asia and the Pacific.

Experts said this "historic backsliding" in vaccination coverage was especially disturbing since it was occurring as rates of severe malnutrition were rising. Malnourished children typically have weaker immune systems and infections like measles can often prove fatal to them.

"The convergence of a hunger crisis with a growing immunization gap threatens to create the conditions for a child survival crisis," the U.N. said.

Scientists said low vaccine coverage rates had already resulted in preventable outbreaks of diseases like measles and polio. In March 2020, WHO and partners asked countries to suspend their polio eradication efforts amid the accelerating COVID-19 pandemic. There have since been dozens of polio epidemics in more than 30 countries.

"This is particularly tragic as tremendous progress was made in the two decades before the COVID pandemic to improve childhood vaccination rates globally," said Helen Bedford, a professor of children's health at University College London, who was not connected to the U.N. report. She said the news was shocking but not surprising, noting that immunization services are frequently an "early casualty" of major social or economic disasters.

Dr. David Elliman, a consultant pediatrician at Britain's Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, said it was critical to reverse the declining vaccination trend among children.

"The effects of what happens in one part of the world can ripple out to affect the whole globe," he said in a statement, noting the rapid spread of COVID-19 and more recently, monkeypox. "Whether we act on the basis of ethics or 'enlightened self interest', we must put (children) top of our list of priorities."

MAN

From Page 3

"He shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(d) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c): any firearms and ammunition involved in the commission of the offense, including, but not limited to the .40 caliber, model Glock 22 handgun, serial number WHZ254," court documents state.

It was learned that Ikbal has pending criminal charges in the CNMI Superior Court and a bench warrant has been issued against him.

Sablan says delay in PSS Yutu recovery projects is 'troubling'

» Guerrero says PSS had just decided that Hopwood School will remains at its current location

» Guerrero says ball rolling now for a lot of these Yutu PSS recovery projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) is troubled that many of the Public School System projects that were supposed to help PSS recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 remain pending up to now—nearly four years later.

At an "informal meeting" last week between Public Assistance Office's Patrick Guerrero and members of the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee in the House chamber, Sablan said $1 million paid to PSS to date out of the $62.5 million that had been awarded to PSS is not that much.

Sablan said this is especially true when it sounds like most of the $1 million was actually spent in the first six months to a year after Yutu, which happened almost four years ago.

"And I'm really perplexed," Sablan said.

Sablan raised these concerns after Guerrero, who is also the Governor's Authorized Representative for COVID-19, disclosed at that meeting that the federal government awarded PSS $62.5 million for Yutu recovery, but that the Public Assistance Office has so far paid only just a little over $1 million to PSS.

Guerrero said they depend on PSS submitting reimbursement requests to them. He also stated, among other things, that they do anticipate request from PSS for a few million dollars coming in within the next 30 to 60 days for the work that has already been completed.

Sablan was perplexed why it's taking this long, considering that when they had their briefing with PSS, they did ask some other questions about the status of these projects and it sounded like almost all of their Federal Emergency Management Agency projects were still in the very early stages such as pre-design, draft Architecture and Engineering design, and conceptual design.

Sablan

Guerrero

Sablan said she would really like to better understand why these projects have barely moved forward, and if and what can be done to address and unstick this logjam that they're seeing.

"And what is the risk if you know of FEMA taking over the management of awards to PSS, if there really has been so little movement on these projects?" the lawmaker asked.

Guerrero said he was told during his visit a couple of times with the FEMA Regional Office that the justification for an extension on projects should not include the COVID-19 pandemic. Guerrero said he would always argue against this, considering that the world "stopped" for at least a year due to the pandemic. "I know it's been over two years," he said.

Looking at his data, Guerrero pointed out that the pandemic started in January 2020 and that before the start of the pandemic, PSS was only awarded less than $10 million for Yutu recovery.

He said most of this award started in January of 2020 and that, in fact, Hopwood Junior High School wasn't even awarded for their recovery until November of 2020, or not even two years ago.

Guerrero said to add up to that total of $62 million, $50 million plus was awarded in the last 18 months. He said PSS is dependent on receiving the FEMA awards so they've been doing some A&E designs only for the last 18 months.

Guerrero said that, for some projects, PSS made some decisions on how to use the funds ("maybe they don't want to go back to what it was pre-disaster or they want to use or reserve the funds for something else.")

He noted that Hopwood only has the funding in the last two years, even as PSS and PAO were looking at plans whether to relocate Hopwood or rebuild at the same school site. Guerrero said they did their due diligence by conducting a few studies. "At the end of the day, the decision is PSS decision, and they've made that just recently that they want to remain down there," he said.

With that final decision, Guerrero said they can now move forward with the Hopwood rebuilding project.

He said four years have gone by since the Yutu disaster but less than half of that has been trying to get the ball rolling.

"Now that the ball's rolling for a lot of these projects, hopefully it can gain some speed, and start progressing at a faster pace," Guerrero said.

He said the Hopwood rebuilding project is a two-phase project. Guerrero said they want to build Hopwood a temporary additional 20 classrooms because they know that the rebuild is going to take two to three years, based on the A&E firm's estimates for design and construction.

"And we don't want them in this multi-track system for the next two to three years," said Guerrero, adding that they don't want Hopwood students attending classes in tents.

He said they are looking at these temporary classrooms as a temporary solution that could withstand typhoons.

Guerrero said they are looking at other sources of funding for the temporary classrooms. He said the funding source has not been identified yet, but they are using their own funding right now to do some design and placement of those temporary classrooms.

Guerrero said that, although there has been a decision at PSS to rebuild at the same Hopwood site, they have not ruled out relocating Hopwood eventually. He said they hired Hofschneider Engineering for a $140,000 contract to do a feasibility study in order to determine whether Hopwood should remain at its current location in Chalan Piao or move to As Perdido.

"We paid for it under our office. I know this body [House] set aside some money but we paid for it under our office," he said.

The House appropriated $50,000 in the government's budget for fiscal year 2022 to fund the feasibility study.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

SHINING STAR, INC.
REHABILITATION OF THE SHINING STAR HOTEL BUILDING
(FORMER KOREANA HOTEL)
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)
CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF THE AS GONNO TRANSFER STATION FACILITY

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following projects:

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2022-043 - Shining Star, Inc. is proposing to rehabilitate the former Koreana Hotel building for the operation of the Shining Star Hotel on Juan Nong Street in Chalan Kanoa, District No. 4, Saipan. The hotel is a four-story building composed of thirty-six (36) rooms and ten (10) parking stalls. The hotel building is situated on Lot No. 013 H 38, consisting of an area of about 900 square meters.

CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-00-X-129-A1 – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct and operate the As Gonno Transfer Station on Lot No. 046 K 02 in As Gonno, Saipan. The facility includes an office, small track scale, covered tipping floor, roll-off container storage yard, recycling building, ponding basin, septic tank/leaching field, oil-water separator, and small generator for the truck scale.

The public hearing for these projects is scheduled on **Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: *hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315)*. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Rehabilitation of the Shining Star Hotel Building Project and the As Gonno Transfer Station Facility.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 20, 2022, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Room.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 20, 2022
IV. Review & Adoption of Special Meeting Minutes of June 07, 2022
V. Action Item
  a. Review and Approve Proposed CDD's 2022-2026 State Plan Amendments
VI. Reports
  a Chairman
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VII. New Business
  a. State Agency Presentations for the CNMI Comprehensive Review & Analysis Report
  b. Robert's Rules of Order Refresher
  c. DNP Forum
  d. VOICES of the CNMI – Meet Your Policymaker/Candidate Activity
  e. NDEAM 2022
  f. Accessible Recreational Project
  g. Service System Needs Assessment
VIII. Old Business
  a. Movie Night Update
  b. DNP Quality Assurance Retreat Update
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total $274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

19 participants complete Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program

The 2022 Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program ended last Tuesday, July 12, with a graduation ceremony for the program's 19 participants at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe.

Dozens of guests, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), U.S District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, attended the ceremony to celebrate the participants who successfully completed the program.

The program encourages and supports participants who are interested in attending law school. It features intensive law classes, mentoring by experienced attorneys, LSAT workshops, tours of the Guma' Hustisia and U.S. District Court for the NMI, and a moot court component in which the participants argue before members of the bench and other lawyers. This year's program was the ninth conducted since the first one in 1991. About 35 program alumni have graduated from law schools throughout the United States.

Dean Rose Cuison-Villazor of Rutgers Law School and Professor Eun Hee Han of Georgetown University Law Center, who both grew up on Saipan, respectively taught Property Law and Legal Research and Writing. \ Cuison-Villazor returned for the third time, having taught in the 2010 and 2014 programs.

The pre-law program was organized by a committee composed of Judiciary staff as well as attorneys Anthony H. Aguon, Carmen V. Borja, Frances T. Demapan, Jose P. Mafnas Jr., and Nicole Torres-Ripple. Supreme Court law clerk Benjamin Schwartz served as program coordinator.

The attorney-mentors were: Judy T. Aldan, Stephen Anson, Frances T. Demapan, J. Robert Glass, Matthew Gregory, Matthew J. Holley, Hunter Hunt, Keith H. Ketola, Jose P. Mafnas Jr., Samuel Mok, Tina Ngo, Jacqueline Nicolas, Mary E. Novakovic, Rellani B. Ogumoro, Tyler Scott, Joaquin DLG Torres, Nicole Torres-Ripple, Rochelle L. Vazquez, and Michael A. White. ***(PR)***

Front row, from left, Daniel Isaac P. Brown, Peter Paul H. Camacho, Lallane Casugay Guiao, Professor Eun Hee Han, Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor, Rep. Celina Roberto Babauta, Emma Rae Timmons, Josephine N. Estrada, Victoria Simone Bellas, and Weena Gwendolyn Taitano Iguel. Middle row, from left, Daeyoung "Daniel" Huh, Lisa Phair, Rebecca C. White, Brianna Concepcion Hunter, Ardel R. Ciolo, Zeno Camacho Deleon Guerrero, Jr., Ikluk T. Masayos, Mikiotti N. Evangelista, and Michael Emil A. Johnson. Back row, from left, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Justice Perry B. Inos, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Justice John A. Manglona, and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy. Not pictured: Olivia Yuri T. Hirsh and Charlie Alayan Rivera. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 2022 Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program pose with judges, lawyers, and lawmakers after a graduation ceremony at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe last Tuesday, July 12, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On stage, from left, U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Justice Perry B. Inos, Justice John A. Manglona, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Professor Eun Hee Han, Dean Rose Cuison-Villazor, and Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Free portable gas stove, butane gas canisters to be handed out on Rota

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division Office will be handing out portable gas stoves and butane gas canister on Rota this Saturday and Sunday in a drive-thru event that will primarily benefit residential households.

The distribution, which is being done in coordination with the Office of the Governor and Office of Grants Management, will take place on July 23, from 9am to 12pm, at the Rota Man'Amko Center and on July 24, from 9am to 12pm, at the Rota Round House.

In addition, staff from the Weatherization Assistance Program will be available on Rota to assist anyone interested in applying for program services.

This distribution is part of the division's "2022 Rota Energy Educational Awareness and Community Outreach Program Campaign Drive-Thru Distribution Event."

To avail of the portable gas stove with butane gas canister, residential homeowners must present a copy of a valid government-issued ID and a copy of a most recent Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billing with the same name on the ID and CUC account. Residents that are tenants of apartments, rental properties, etc., and not named as the CUC account holder, must provide a copy of a lease or rental agreement. If the residential homeowner with the CUC account holder's name is unable to make it, provide a letter of authorization along with a copy of the ID matching the CUC account name to avail of the distribution item.

Businesses, rental property owners, and/or landlords are not eligible to receive the portable gas stove with the butane gas.

With limited supply for this event, items will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the specified time only, while supplies last.

Due to the continuing threat of COVID-19, the public is required to observe and comply with all health and safety protocols. Masks are required at all times during the program event hours of operations. All vehicle operators and passengers must remain in their vehicles at all times and must follow all posted event signs and obey all event traffic flow signs.

With the continuing rise in the utility rate, the Division of Energy, along with the Office of Grants Management, is promoting energy conservation to encourage implementation of energy measures to help reduce energy use and save money.

For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact reporting specialist Maile Iakopo at 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy - State Energy Program and Office of the Governor, Office of Grants Management. ***(PR)***

MVA revives 'Beautify My Marianas' program

The Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting group members to join their efforts in ensuring a clean and safe environment for tourists and residents through its Beautify My Marianas program, which is being restarted for the first time since Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

In announcing the reboot of the program, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo also welcomed manager Tiana Reyes, who will oversee the program as part of her responsibilities.

"The MVA is pleased to have Tiana join our team as our new product development manager," said Iakopo. "With her onboard, we are excited to roll out our popular Beautify My Marianas program and other destination enhancement projects."

Beautify My Marianas offers a $100 cash incentive for established organizations or groups at least four people who clean up trash along at least one mile designated by the MVA.

"It's exciting to relaunch the Beautify My Marianas program, which gives community and student groups the chance to support tourism by cleaning up designated sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Reyes. "The program raises awareness of having a clean and safe environment, reducing littering, and creating a unique sense of pride in our islands. With the program reactivated, our community has even more opportunities now to support the beautification of our islands for visitors and residents to enjoy."

Participants must comply with all program requirements, including disposal of garbage collected at the Department of Public Works' transfer station in Lower Base, providing a written report with before and after photos, and others.

For an application and list of requirements, visit www.mymarianas.com/beautify-my-marianas. Applications are also available at the MVA main office at the Gold Beach Hotel Building on Beach Rd, Saipan; the Tinian MVA Field Office in San Jose; or at the Rota MVA Field Office in Songsong.

For more information, contact Reyes at treyes@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/1. ***(MVA)***

Appliance rebate voucher extension for Tinian and Rota recipients

The Department of Public Works, Division of Energy Office would like to inform all appliance rebate voucher recipients on Tinian and Rota only and participating registered vendors, retailers and or suppliers under the CNMI Energizing Insular Communities – Energy-Efficient/ Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program that an extension granting an additional 30 days to the voucher redemption period has been approved for all appliance rebate vouchers issued in May 2022 to Tinian and Rota residents only.

For additional program information or questions, contact the Division of Energy Office at (670)664-4480/1. ***(PR)***

500 Sails returns to Tinian for Camp Maga'lahi

500 Sails continues to support the revitalization of seafaring culture in the Marianas through its partnership with the Northern Marianas College- Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services' 4-H Camp Maga'lahi.

As it has in years past, the cultural maritime nonprofit organization will launch a 26-foot Chamorro sailing vessel today, July 19, and sail across the Saipan-Tinian Channel to land on Tachogna Beach. This sail is a part of the Cultural Maritime Training Center's Traditional Sailing and Voyaging track funded by the Administration for Native Americans. Escort boat service will be provided by *Weniol,* captained by Larry Sharry. Once on Tinian, 500 Sails staff and volunteers will provide free canoe rides on Wednesday, July 20, for the dozens of campers taking part in Camp Maga'lahi.

Andrew Roberto, 500 Sails director of Community Programs, emphasized the importance of the event. "Sailing is part of the DNA of all the people of Oceania, so it's natural that we'd want to continue to travel up and down the islands. 500 Sails is happy to share the gift of sailing with the children of the Marianas, because it is our hope that one day they'll resume voyaging like their ancestors. Aside from that, sailing in a lagoon is simple, wholesome fun. We know the campers on Tinian will have a great time."

Logistical support for this sail was made possible through funds from Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) of the 22nd Tinian Legislative Delegation. ***(PR)***

In-person training resumes for finance officers of insular area governments

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is pleased to note that the Island Government Finance Officers Association has reconvened their first in-person meeting in over two years, as they ended their summer 2022 meeting. Twenty-eight finance officers and government financial officials from American Samoa, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands convened from June 4 to 9, 2022, in Austin, Texas for the biannual IGFO,A including the associated conference of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

"We are pleased to see that the finance officers across the insular areas are reconvening and reconnecting to train and network on matters related to financial management," said Keone Nakoa, deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "These officers serve their respective island areas as important stewards of public funds, and we at OIA are pleased to help provide support as you work to manage public funds efficiently, correctly, and fairly for the various communities you serve."

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program, the IGFOA is a community of practice composed of insular government finance officers who work to build the local capacity through biannual meetings that provide technical training and strategic support in public finance and accounting. At the Summer 2022 meeting, the government delegations met to share insular government finance developments, coordinate attendance at GFOA conference sessions, and discuss their respective islands' single audits, enterprise resource planning, employee engagement, and plans to implement GASB 87 lease accounting. The islands finance officers then joined approximately 6,400 conference attendees for the GFOA with speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and guests from across the United States, Canada, and worldwide. Conference attendees were offered over 73 courses focused on improving their technical and leadership competencies. ***(OIA)***

Island Government Finance Officers Association Summer 2022 participants and organizers. PITIVITI

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Available for Public Review & Comment
PY2022 Annual Action Plan
July 19, 2022

Amendment #1

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability for public review and comment, the Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The AAP is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds received by NMHC. NMHC is the Grantee of these HUD funds. NMHC administers CDBG, HOME, HTF, and ESG programs on behalf of the CNMI.

The PY2022 AAP identifies NMHC's proposed use of HUD PY2022 CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HTF funds totaling $1,781,697 for the third year of the ConPlan cycle. A detailed list of the proposed projects and activities are shown below.

Community Development Block Grant		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Amount**
1	Demolition of Perilous Structures (Tinian) (Deemed unsafe and beyond repairable due to Super Typhoon Yutu)- Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian Municipal Council Building, Tinian Public Market	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	Clearance/Demolition	$205,000.00
2	Renovation of Tinian's Little League Baseball Field	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	Public Facility	$330,000.00
3	Purchase of (1) Rescue Watercraft and (1) All-Terrain Vehicle for Rota DFEMS and (1) Rescue Watercraft and (1) All-Terrain Vehicle for Tinian DFEMS	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	Public Service	$106,000.00
4	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs- Division of Youth Services	Public Facility	$123,100.00
5	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Basketball Court	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs- Division of Youth Services	Public Facility	$20,000.00
6	CDBG Planning and Administrative Costs	NMHC	Program Administration	$196,025.00
	Total			**$980,425.00**
Emergency Solutions Grant		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Amount**
7	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance/ Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	NMHC	Homeless Prevention /Rapid Rehousing	$66,375.55
8	ESG Administrative Cost	NMHC	Program Administration	$6,030.45
9	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	NMHC	HMIS	$8,000.00
	Total			**$80,406.00**
HOME Investment Partnership Grant		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Amount**
10	HOME Rehabilitation Program	NMHC	Affordable Housing	$188,165.65
11	HOME New Construction Program	NMHC	Affordable Housing	$250,000.00
12	HOME Planning and Administrative Costs	NMHC	Program Administration	$77,323.35
	Total			**$ 515,489.00**
Housing Trust Fund		**Project Sponsor**	**Project Type**	**Amount**
13	To rehabilitate up to (2) NMHC Foreclosed Units and to convert to a rental unit for an extremely low- income household	NMHC will identify a non-profit organization to administer the program	Rehabilitation of a Rental Unit	$200,677.00
14	HTF Planning and Administrative Costs	NMHC	Program Administration	$5,000.00
	Total			**$205,677.00**

The AAP will be available electronically on NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net. If you would like to obtain a copy or require additional information please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at 234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhcgov.net.

NMHC is inviting the public to comment on the proposed AAP. NMHC supports pandemic safety protocols and current mandated social distancing requirements. Public hearings will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Locations are as follows:

1) Saipan: NMHC Conference Room, Main Office, Garapan
2) Tinian: NMHC Field Office, San Jose Village, NMC Campus
3) Rota: NMHC Field Office, Sinapalo Village

Any person(s), agency, or organization wishing to comment on the AAP are encouraged to do so by submitting written comments to the NMHC main office at Garapan, Saipan, and/or to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, **no later than 4:30 pm Thursday, August 18, 2022.** Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile at (670)234-9021 or by submitting via email to deputydirector@nmhcgov.net. Should you require special accommodations, please contact Ms. Mafnas, at the NMHC main office, at 670-234-6866.

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD CPD funds

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

Effective July 18, 2022, the Homeless Coalition Team would like to inform the general public that the Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHVP) will be closed. The following agencies will no longer be accepting applications:

Division of Youth Services (DYS) & Office of the Youth Affairs
SAIPAN – TINIAN – ROTA

Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC)

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV)

The Homeless Coalition Team & the Field Office Representatives will review the applications submitted on or before July 18, 2022, and formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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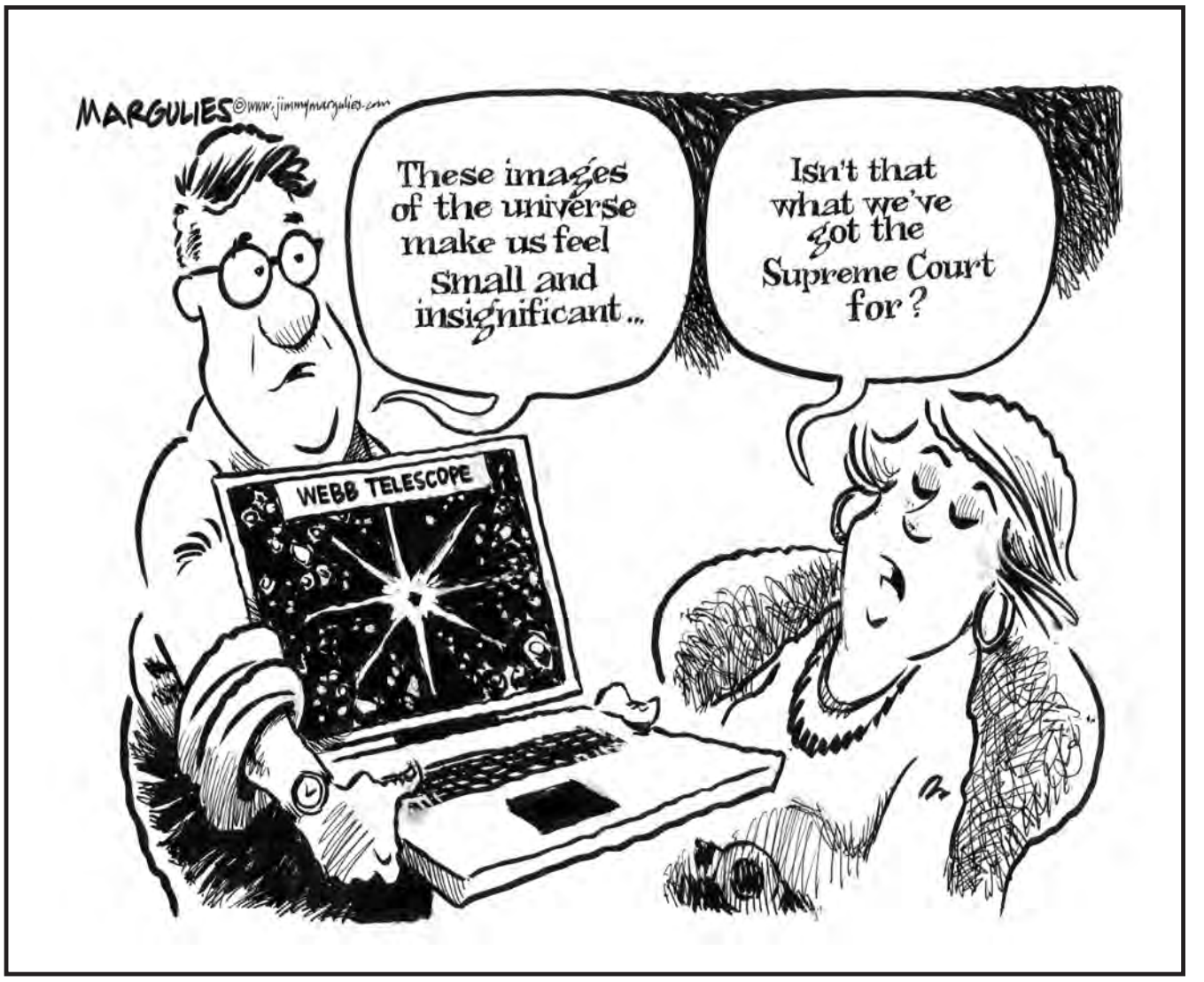
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These images of the universe make us feel small and insignificant...
Isn't that what we've got the Supreme Court for?
WEBB TELESCOPE

EDITORIAL

Whether it's defacing a school or campaign sign, political vandalism isn't free speech

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is absolutely right: The recent desecration of Ascension Catholic School in Overland Park was an "overt act of hatred and incivility."

Yard signs on church grounds have repeatedly been stolen or defaced, according to church officials.

We reject all acts of violence, vandalism and theft. Spray painting church property and the recent tagging of campaign signs belonging to a candidate for the Jackson County Legislature with a hateful anti-gay slur doesn't achieve any worthwhile outcome.

And the silliness of stealing campaign signs touting one candidate or cause over another must end as well.

Laws exist to deter such actions, but police have more pressing needs than to look into acts of pure pettiness and meanness.

Residents on both sides of the state line must continue to reject hate speech or intolerance. But over the weekend, our fraying norms of civility didn't stop someone from vandalizing Ascension. "My body my choice," a vandal wrote in bright red paint.

The distasteful words that followed were reprehensible.

"F--- your dirty $," the vandal continued. A woman was seen running away from the scene, according to Overland Park police. She left a parting gift by splattering a statue of the Virgin Mary with red paint. As of Wednesday, no one had been arrested, police said.

Ascension Catholic School is part of the Church of the Ascension, which has been actively promoting the Value Them Both constitutional amendment on the Aug. 2 ballot in Kansas. If passed, the amendment would allow state lawmakers to further restrict access to abortion or ban the procedure outright.

No matter your political beliefs or standing, it's unacceptable to vandalize property to get your point across.

Protesting is an effective tool to bring attention to important matters, anti-violence advocates say. Peaceful demonstrations build consensus and a wider audience, advocates contend. And they're right.

Allan Katz is founder of American Public Square at Jewell, a nonprofit devoted to promoting civil discourse among folks with different viewpoints and beliefs. Free speech, Katz noted, is not unrestricted.

"Yes, you can express yourself and stand outside a church and demonstrate or picket a candidate or a cause," he said. "But there are lines you cannot cross."

Whoever vandalized Ascension Catholic School crossed

See WHETHER on Next Page

Supreme Court can't stop the climate movement

By 2022 PUBLIC VOICES FELLOWS ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to curb the Environmental Protection Agency's power over carbon pollution in West Virginia v. EPA jeopardizes a clean and livable planet at the worst possible moment. Along with its recent decisions on abortion and guns, it seems that the court's conservative majority has no qualms about suppressing the future of all life on this planet.

After this onslaught of rights-eviscerating rulings, it's easy to feel stunned, hopeless and inert. Instead, we should realize that the people of the United States have power.

We are a group of climate-engaged stewards from across the nation, including a classical musician, a doctor, a student, a climate labor researcher, a documentary filmmaker, a youth climate activist and a lawyer-turned-journalist — a group as diverse as the progressive movement as a whole.

One thing is clear: The clean energy transition can't be stopped. It's happening at all levels of public life; it's happening in public schools, in hospitals, in municipal utilities, in churches and in our own homes.

That's because the majority of Americans want a livable future. According to research from Yale University and George Mason University, 70% of the U.S. population is worried about climate change, and most American voters — even Republicans — support climate-friendly energy policies. The Supreme Court decisions won't erase this popular mandate.

This month, a coalition of labor and environmental groups helped make Rhode Island the first state to commit to 100% renewables by 2033. Last year's Climate and Equitable Jobs Act committed Illinois to have a carbon-free power sector by 2045 and to 100% clean and affordable renewable energy by 2050. Both are the most pro-worker climate bills to date, requiring labor standards on utility-scale renewables and creating thousands of union careers for frontline communities.

Hawaii has become the first state to declare a climate emergency, New York state is building nine gigawatts of offshore wind power projects and California is transitioning to an all-electric bus fleet. Collective efforts of environmental advocates, community organizers and labor unions made these ambitions a reality.

On a local level, school districts across the nation are installing renewable energy sources like wind and solar modules, and committing to net-zero emissions targets. Union and state jobs coalitions are pushing campaigns for carbon-free and healthy schools.

Municipal utilities — nonprofit, community-owned power companies that provide 10% of the electricity in the United States — are installing renewables in response to customer demand. And there is activist momentum to transition investor-owned utilities to municipal ones — campaigns that will expand if utilities don't listen to the 85% of Americans who want more renewable energy.

Federal funds will be transformative. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is providing a massive influx of $1.2 trillion that will create millions of jobs and support our transition to a more renewable, resilient energy economy.

This is not to say we are close to where we need to be. Emissions increased 6.2% last year compared to 2020, largely due to more coal use. One in 10 homes was impacted in 2021 by natural disasters exacerbated by the climate emergency.

Nationwide, more than 17 million people live within one mile of an active oil or gas well and contend with elevated air pollution and disease, a tragic reality that's earned one region in Louisiana the name "cancer alley." Too many Americans still must fight the placement of coal-fired power plants in their communities. The ruling in West Virginia v. EPA hits them hardest.

Some might fear this moment as a disheartening step backward; we frame it as an invitation to join an existing network ready to spring forward and fill the gap.

The last several decades show a history of local actions that have achieved durable and transformative change. It is a collective, organic movement — one that has pushed and thrived and survived independent of EPA or other federal recognition.

We may be licking our collective wounds today, but we know that the moment is too urgent to stay defeated. Together with Americans of all ages, races and creeds, we will persevere.

We'll do it because we care about our children, our communities and our planet. And because the cost of inaction has never been higher.

Tiffany Duong, Beth Gibbons, Tonyisha Harris, Christine James, Tanya Kalmanovitch, Melanie La Rosa, Sage Lenier, Cameron Oglesby, Anita Raman and Laalitha Surapaneni coauthored this piece. They are all 2022 Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis, a partnership of The OpEd Project and the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

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How worried should you be about omicron BA.5?

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering science. She is host of the* Follow the Science *podcast.*

The ways we think about the COVID-19 pandemic have evolved with the virus: In 2020, it was a potentially deadly threat we could avoid by being careful; in 2021, it was something that was likely to infect everyone eventually; and now, it's becoming seen as a persistent health hazard that can reinfect people multiple times, each time inflicting cumulative damage and increasing the odds of long-duration symptoms.

Now that most people have been infected, there's really no other way a new variant can take over except by breaking through immunity from past infections and vaccinations. That's one reason The Washington Post called BA.5, the currently circulating subvariant of the highly transmissible omicron, "the worst variant."

Your definition of "the worst" may vary. It's certainly the most infectious so far Faye Flam but the widespread availability of vaccines will make it far less deadly than earlier versions. The concern about cumulative harm, especially to the heart and brain, is reason to avoid getting reinfected, but there are understandable limits to how far people can or will go to evade BA.5. The young and healthy may brush off repeat infections like common colds, while older, sicker or more-vulnerable people who've already battled with the virus have yet another thing to worry about.

Some of the latest concerns about cumulative damage stem from a study of health care records from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The researchers looked at records from more than 5 million people to compare fates of the never-infected with more than 250,000 who sought care for one COVID-19 infection, and about 38,000 who sought care for two or more. The conclusion: The risk of long-term damage or prolonged symptoms increased with that second infection.

What's not clear yet is whether the damage came from having fairly severe repeat infections or whether it has anything to do with "long COVID," the mysterious syndrome that afflicts previously healthy people with months of crippling fatigue and other health problems. Moreover, because of the sample —the average age of the subjects was over 60, and they all got sick enough to seek treatment, which not all COVID-19 patients do —the results might overstate the risk of reinfection to the general population.

Another study, published in Science, hints at why reinfections are such a problem even among the vaccinated, despite earlier work showing people build up powerful antibodies against this virus. The study authors suggested that immunity from previous versions of the virus might actually dampen the body's ability to develop immunity to omicron —the variant that's been dominant, in different forms, since the winter.

The researchers used blood samples from 731 vaccinated and boosted health care workers in the U.K. They found hints that previous infections with the original variant, or the offshoots alpha and delta, might interfere with the body's ability to make antibodies specific to omicron and its offspring, thus leaving people more vulnerable to reinfection. In other words, some forms of natural immunity might prove a long-term liability.

The idea, which the researchers called immune damping or imprinting, is that the immune system can get stuck creating antibodies programmed to fight these earlier variants, and so produce weapons not quite geared to fit the new targets.

The study was too small to conclude anything —at best, it hints that immune imprinting deserves more study. As the infectious disease specialist Monica Gandhi of the University of California, San Francisco pointed out, only 17 of the subjects in the study even got omicron. Moreover, the study didn't track actual reinfections —as a proxy, it examined how well antibodies and immune cells left from the vaccines and previous infections fought the omicron variant in a test tube. Because the researchers looked at natural immunity, it's also not clear whether vaccines would have the same effect.

And antibodies are also not our only line of defense; Gandhi pointed to several larger studies showing that a long-lasting component of immunity, T-cells, are acquired from the vaccines and past infections.

But this issue of immune imprinting deserves more, bigger, better studies because scientists are still far from understanding the battle between this evolving virus and our immune systems. It's something that has to be well understood to develop a more effective next generation of vaccines.

Current vaccines are still working at preventing severe disease, however, and that may mean that fully vaccinated and boosted people who get two or three mild infections over a period of years won't experience the kind of long-term risk faced by the unvaccinated.

Amesh Adalja, a physician and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said it's not surprising that the virus is continuing to mutate and evolve in ways that allow it to survive in an increasingly immune population. "To me, it was always a secondary purpose of the vaccines to prevent infection," said Adalja. "The primary purpose was to remove the hell that was going on in hospitals."

Given how terrible the hospital crowding situation got in New York City in 2020, this BA.5 variant might not qualify as the "worst" in everyone's book. People aren't dying at the same tragic rate they were in 2020, but now the survivors of that horror have a new concern. And how bad things get depends in part on whether the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the public health community can start giving people clear, honest guidance on how to navigate this evolving health threat over the long run.

The Justice Department should indict Donald Trump

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote* A Plain Blog About Politics.

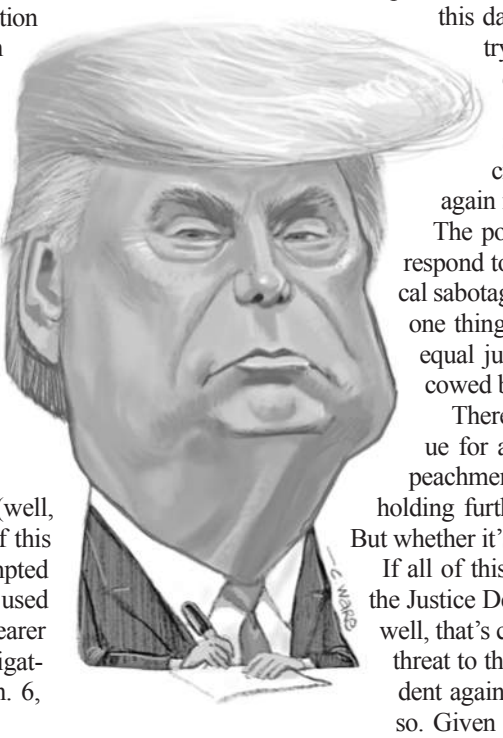
As former President Donald Trump moves toward formally announcing his 2024 candidacy for another term in the White House, it's becoming more and more obvious that he should be prosecuted for his attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

This isn't something that should be undertaken lightly. Attempting to imprison a former president — especially one who is a leading candidate for the presidential nomination of his party — is something that should be reserved for the gravest circumstances. People will say that the rule of law requires presidents to be prosecuted just as any other citizen would be, but it really is more complicated than that.

The Justice Department says that it investigates crimes, not people, and that's the way it should be. Nobody should want the Justice Department to be turned against the leaders of out-parties for offenses that would never have been charged against anyone else. The justice system depends on prosecutors using their discretion properly, so that the immense power of the government isn't used to hound people over trivial or technical details, and that really needs to apply even more to political leaders — especially from the party that does not control the White House.

That's why it's so awful that Trump encourages chants to "lock up" his political opponents.

I'm also only somewhat impressed by arguments about deterring future presidents from committing crimes. It's not clear to me that the possibility of prosecution and imprisonment would ever be the main thing keeping presidents from breaking the law. Political consequences are paramount to most presidents, who have spent most of their lives trying to reach the White House. Trump may not care that he was impeached twice and provoked the first-ever same-party conviction votes in the Senate, but if so he's probably unique among presidents in that way. I suspect that Richard Nixon cared more that he was driven out of the presidency and politically humiliated than he would have been about a prison term.



And yet …

Trump didn't commit ordinary crimes (well, he probably did, and that weighs on all of this too, but it's not the main thing). He attempted to overturn an election that he had lost, and used the presidency to do so. That's become clearer and clearer as the House committee investigating the assault on the U.S. Capitol of Jan. 6, 2021 has presented its case.

Experts seem to believe that the evidence is there and that conviction is likely for Trump's efforts to pressure election officials to falsify results, to gin up slates of fake electors and to provoke the Capitol mob. And it's highly relevant that Trump to this day, long after the election, continues to try to overturn the legitimate result. Prosecutors should take it into account if a person constantly takes to the biggest stages and in effect brags about his crimes and promises to commit them again if he has the chance.

The possibility that Trump supporters would respond to an indictment with violence or political sabotage should not constrain prosecutors. It's one thing to work hard to preserve the ideal of equal justice under the law. It's another to be cowed by extra-constitutional threats.

There's a fair argument that the proper venue for all of this was Congress, and that impeachment, conviction and disqualification from holding further office would have been sufficient. But whether it's correct or not, that ship has sailed.

If all of this sounds as if the ultimate decision by the Justice Department will be political in nature … well, that's correct. Prosecutors have to balance the threat to the nation from indicting a former president against the threat to the nation of not doing so. Given the facts we've seen, it's just not that hard a choice. Trump's crimes are too important, and too dangerous, to ignore.

WHETHER

From Page 8

those lines and must face legal consequences for their actions. As does the perpetrator responsible for the homophobic slur that appeared on a campaign banner promoting Justice Horn for Jackson County Legislature.

Horn, the only openly gay candidate in the race, is seeking to represent the 1st District.

"You destroy your own message," Katz noted. "No one is talking about the message. They are talking about the action."

Going forward, we all have to be mindful of respecting each other's differences. Most of us have strong feelings on social and cultural issues that could manifest itself politically, Katz said.

Dissent is allowed. Dialogue and respect is crucial. But communication has to be open and honest to be effective.

"Convincing someone to accept your point of view is to get someone to understand your perspective and why you believe what you believe," Katz said. "People can disagree with a degree of civility and still respect the other person. There is space for difference of opinion."

People believe in what they believe. Vandalizing someone's property isn't going to get them to change their viewpoints.

Over the past week, we have seen the further erosion of civil discourse play out before our very eyes. The criminal acts must stop.

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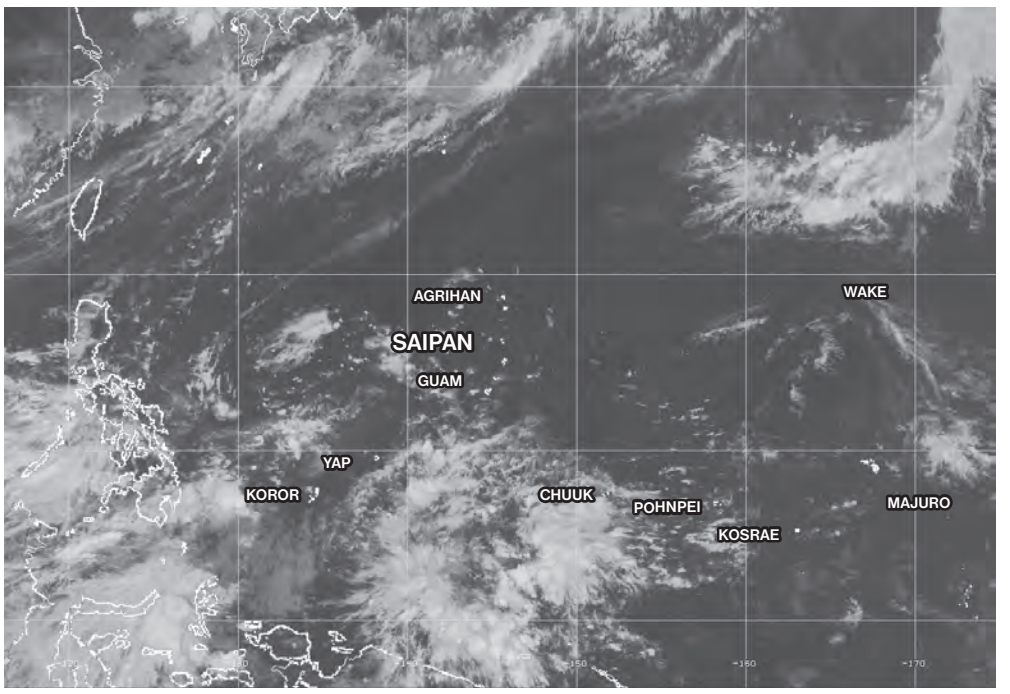
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy
88° 76°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	88° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:04 AM, MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed a few showers and thunderstorms over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 77°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:02 AM	11:22 PM
Wednesday	-	11:54 AM	-
Thursday	12:00 AM	12:44 PM	-
Friday	12:37 AM	1:34 PM	-
Saturday	1:17 AM	2:25 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	62° / 54°
Beijing	Cloudy	95° / 74°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	103° / 65°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Melbourne	Sunny	54° / 32°
Miami	Showers	88° / 82°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Paris	Sunny	106° / 69°
Busan	Thunderstorms	83° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 72°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°
Tokyo	Scattered Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	91° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:20 AM	High Tide	2.11
6:35 AM	Low Tide	1.02
11:36 AM	High Tide	1.77
6:17 PM	Low Tide	0.48

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	3, 4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	3, 4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	1, 2, 3, 5

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

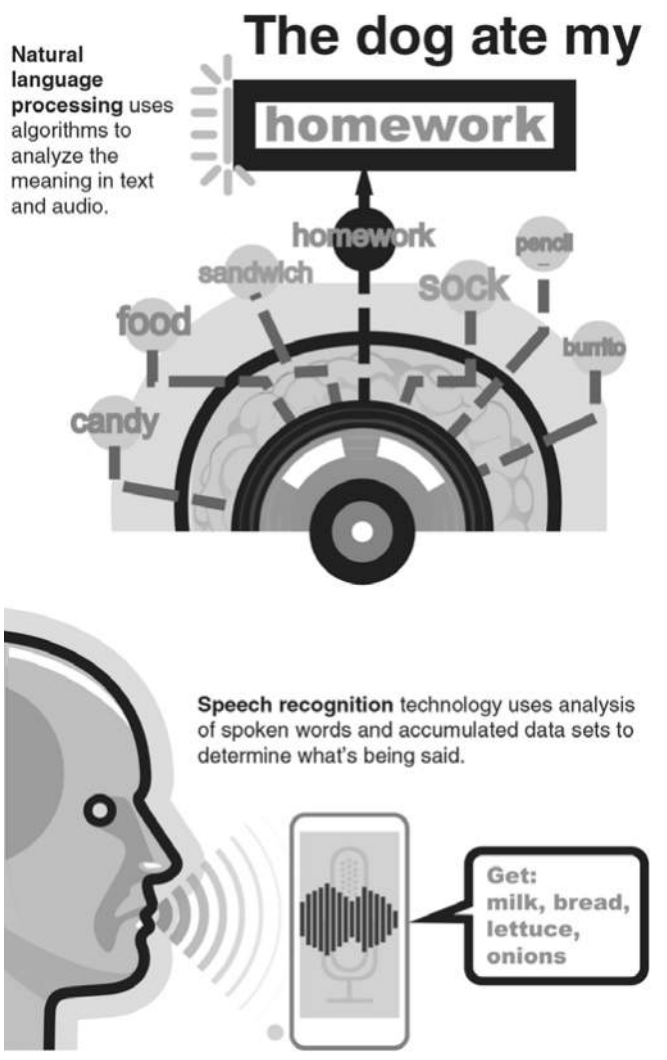
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

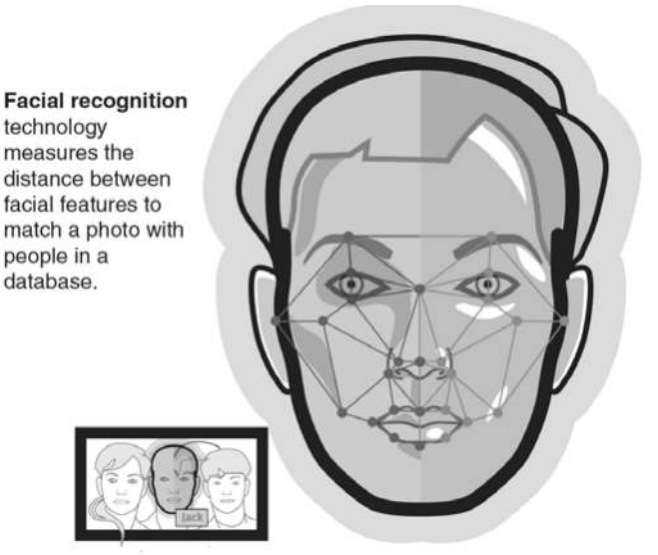
As AI language skills grow, so do scientists' concerns

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

AP
Research engineer Teven Le Scao, who helped create the new artificial intelligence language model called BLOOM, poses for a photo, Monday, July 11, 2022, in New York.



Speech recognition technology uses analysis of spoken words and accumulated data sets to determine what's being said.
Get: milk, bread, lettuce, onions


Facial recognition technology measures the distance between facial features to match a photo with people in a database.

The tech industry's latest artificial intelligence constructs can be pretty convincing if you ask them what it feels like to be a sentient computer, or maybe just a dinosaur or squirrel. But they're not so good—and sometimes dangerously bad—at handling other seemingly straightforward tasks.

Take, for instance, GPT-3, a Microsoft-controlled system that can generate paragraphs of human-like text based on what it's learned from a vast database of digital books and online writings. It's considered one of the most advanced of a new generation of AI algorithms that can converse, generate readable text on demand and even produce novel images and video.

Among other things, GPT-3 can write up most any text you ask for—a cover letter for a zookeeping job, say, or a Shakespearean-style sonnet set on Mars. But when Pomona College professor Gary Smith asked it a simple but nonsensical question about walking upstairs, GPT-3 muffed it.

"Yes, it is safe to walk upstairs on your hands if you wash them first," the AI replied.

These powerful and power-chugging AI systems, technically known as "large language models" because they've been trained on a huge body of text and other media, are already getting baked into customer service chatbots, Google searches and "auto-complete" email features that finish your sentences for you. But most of the tech companies that built them have been secretive about their inner workings, making it hard for outsiders to understand the flaws that can make them a source of misinformation, racism and other harms.

"They're very good at writing text with the proficiency of human beings," said Teven Le Scao, a research engineer at the AI startup Hugging Face. "Something they're not very good at is being factual. It looks very coherent. It's almost true. But it's often wrong."

That's one reason a coalition of AI researchers co-led by Le Scao —- with help from the French government—launched a new large language model Tuesday that's supposed to serve as an antidote to closed systems such as GPT-3. The group is called BigScience and their model is BLOOM, for the BigScience Large Open-science Open-access Multilingual Language Model. Its main breakthrough is that it works across 46 languages, including Arabic, Spanish and French—unlike most systems that are focused on English or Chinese.

It's not just Le Scao's group aiming to open up the black box of AI language models. Big Tech company Meta, the parent of Facebook and Instagram, is also calling for a more open approach as it tries to catch up to the systems built by Google and OpenAI, the company that runs GPT-3.

"We've seen announcement after announcement after announcement of people doing this kind of work, but with very little transparency, very little ability for people to really look under the hood and peek into how these models work," said Joelle Pineau, managing director of Meta AI.

Competitive pressure to build the most eloquent or informative system—and profit from its applications—is one of the reasons that most tech companies keep a tight lid on them and don't collaborate on community norms, said Percy Liang, an associate computer science professor at Stanford who directs its Center for Research on Foundation Models.

"For some companies this is their secret sauce," Liang said. But they are often also worried that losing control could lead to irresponsible uses. As AI systems are increasingly able to write health advice websites, high school term papers or political screeds, misinformation can proliferate and it will get harder to know what's coming from a human or a computer.

Meta recently launched a new language model called OPT-175B that uses publicly available data—from heated commentary on Reddit forums to the archive of U.S. patent records and a trove of emails from the Enron corporate scandal. Meta says its openness about the data, code and research logbooks makes it easier for outside researchers to help identify and mitigate the bias and toxicity that it picks up by ingesting how real people write and communicate.

"It is hard to do this. We are opening ourselves for huge criticism. We know the model will say things we won't be proud of," Pineau said.

While most companies have set their own internal AI safeguards, Liang said what's needed are broader community standards to guide research and decisions such as when to release a new model into the wild.

It doesn't help that these models require so much computing power that only giant corporations and governments can afford them. BigScience, for instance, was able to train its models because it was offered access to France's powerful Jean Zay supercomputer near Paris.

The trend for ever-bigger, ever-smarter AI language models that could be "pre-trained" on a wide body of writings took a big leap in 2018 when Google introduced a system known as BERT that uses a so-called "transformer" technique that compares words across a sentence to predict meaning and context. But what really impressed the AI world was GPT-3, released by San Francisco-based startup OpenAI in 2020 and soon after exclusively licensed by Microsoft.

GPT-3 led to a boom in creative experimentation as AI researchers with paid access used it as a sandbox to gauge its performance—though without important information about the data it was trained on.

OpenAI has broadly described its training sources in a research paper, and has also publicly reported its efforts to grapple with potential abuses of the technology. But BigScience co-leader Thomas Wolf said it doesn't provide details about how it filters that data, or give access to the processed version to outside researchers.

"So we can't actually examine the data that went into the GPT-3 training," said Wolf, who is also a chief science officer at Hugging Face. "The core of this recent wave of AI tech is much more in the dataset than the models. The most important ingredient is data and OpenAI is very, very secretive about the data they use."

Wolf said that opening up the datasets used for language models helps humans better understand their biases. A multilingual model trained in Arabic is far less likely to spit out offensive remarks or misunderstandings about Islam than one that's only trained on English-language text in the U.S., he said.

One of the newest AI experimental models on the scene is Google's LaMDA, which also incorporates speech and is so impressive at responding to conversational questions that one Google engineer argued it was approaching consciousness—a claim that got him suspended from his job last month.

Croatia: Anthrax found in dead cattle in nature park

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Anthrax has been confirmed in dozens of cattle found dead in a nature park southeast of the Croatian capital of Zagreb, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities conducted tests on the animal carcasses after reports that the cattle had developed neurological symptoms, the Ministry of Agriculture said. It said all measures were being taken to contain the outbreak in Lonjsko Polje, a flood plain by the Sava River known for its unique environment.

The state HRT television reported that four people also have been hospitalized with skin infections. The report said 107 cattle have died in the past two weeks.

"We can say that the case is under complete control and there is no room for panic," said local public health official Inoslav Brkić,

Spores of anthrax can lie dormant in the ground until they are ingested by animals or activated when the soil is disturbed by heavy rain, flooding or drought. Outbreaks can kill a large number of animals in a short time. Infected livestock often are found dead with no illness detected.

Anthrax rarely spreads to humans and almost never is transmitted from person to person. About 95% of all human cases of anthrax result from skin contact with infected animals. It can be treated with antibiotics but can be fatal if left untreated.

Nation

Uvalde report: 376 officers but 'egregiously poor' decisions

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—Nearly 400 law enforcement officials rushed to a mass shooting at a Uvalde elementary school, but "egregiously poor decision-making" resulted in more than an hour of chaos before the gunman who took 21 lives was finally confronted and killed, according to a damning investigative report released Sunday.

The nearly 80-page report was the first to criticize both state and federal law enforcement, and not just local authorities in the South Texas town for the bewildering inaction by heavily armed officers as a gunman fired inside two fourth-grade classrooms at Robb Elementary School, killing 19 students and two teachers.

Altogether, the report and more than three hours of newly released body camera footage from the May 24 tragedy amounted to the fullest account to date of one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history. Some families blasted police as cowards and demanded resignations.

"At Robb Elementary, law enforcement responders failed to adhere to their active shooter training, and they failed to prioritize saving innocent lives over their own safety," the report said.

The gunman fired approximately 142 rounds inside the building—and it is "almost certain" that at least 100 shots came before any officer entered, according to the report, which laid out in detail numerous failures. Among them:

■ No one assumed command despite scores of officers being on the scene.

■ The commander of a Border Patrol tactical team waited for a bullet-proof shield and working master key for the classroom, which may have not even been needed, before entering the classroom.

■ A Uvalde Police Department officer said he heard about 911 calls that had come from inside the classroom, and that his understanding was the officers on one side of the building knew there were victims trapped inside. Still, no one tried to breach the classroom.

The report—the most complete account yet of the hesitant and haphazard response to the May 24 massacre—was written by an investigative committee from the Texas House of Representatives. Swiftly, the findings set in motion at least one fallout: Lt. Mariano Pargas, a Uvalde Police Department officer who was the city's acting police chief during the massacre, was placed on administrative leave.

AP

Family of shooting victims listen to the Texas House investigative committee release its full report on the shootings at Robb Elementary School, Sunday, July 17, 2022, in Uvalde, Texas.

Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin said an investigation would be launched to determine whether Pargas should have taken command of the scene. He also disclosed for the first time that some officers had left the force since the shooting but did not provide an exact number, saying it was as many as three.

"It's a joke. They're a joke. They've got no business wearing a badge. None of them do," Vincent Salazar, grandfather of 11-year-old Layla Salazar, who was among those killed, said Sunday.

Anger flashed in Uvalde even over how the report was rolled out: Tina Quintanilla-Taylor, whose daughter survived the shooting, shouted at the three-member Texas House committee as they left a news conference after the findings were released.

Committee members had invited families of the victims to discuss the report privately, but Quintanilla-Taylor said the committee should have taken questions from the community, not just the media. "I'm pissed. They need to come back and give us their undivided attention," she said later.

"These leaders are not leaders," she said.

According to the report, 376 law enforcement officers massed at the school. The overwhelming majority of those who responded were federal and state law enforcement. That included nearly 150 U.S. Border Patrol agents and 91 state police officials.

"Other than the attacker, the Committee did not find any 'villains' in the course of its investigation," the report said. "There is no one to whom we can attribute malice or ill motives. Instead, we found systemic failures and egregiously poor decision making."

The report noted that many of the hundreds of law enforcement responders who rushed to the school were better trained and equipped than the school district police—which the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, the state police force, previously faulted for not going into the room sooner.

Investigators said it was not their job to determine whether officers should be held accountable, saying that decisions rests with each law enforcement agency. Prior to Sunday, only one of the hundreds of officers on the scene—Pete Arredondo, the Uvalde school district police chief—was known to have been on leave.

"Everyone who came on the scene talked about this being chaotic," said Texas state Rep. Dustin Burrows, a Republican who led the investigation.

Officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety and U.S. Border Patrol did not immediately return requests for comment Sunday.

The report followed weeks of closed-door interviews with more than 40 people, including witnesses and law enforcement who were on the scene of the shooting.

No single officer has received as much scrutiny since the shooting as Arredondo, who also resigned from his newly appointed seat on the City Council after the shooting. Arredondo told the committee he treated the shooter as "barricaded subject," according to the report, and defended never treating the scene as an active-shooter situation because he did not have visual contact with the gunman.

Arredondo also tried to find a key for the classrooms, but no one ever bothered to see if the doors were locked, according to the report.

"Arredondo's search for a key consumed his attention and wasted precious time, delaying the breach of the classrooms," the report read.

The report criticized as "lackadaisical" the approach of the hundreds of officers who surrounded the school and said that they should have recognized that Arredondo remaining in the school without reliable communication was "inconsistent" with him being the scene commander. The report concluded that some officers waited because they relied on bad information while others "had enough information to know better."

Hours after the report was released, Uvalde officials separately made public for the first time hours of body camera footage from the city's police officers who responded to the attack. It includes video of several officers reacting to word from a dispatcher, roughly 30 minutes after the shooting began, that a child in the room had called 911.

"The room is full of victims. Child 911 call," an officer says.

Other body camera video from Uvalde Staff Sgt.. Eduardo Canales, the head of the city's SWAT team, shows the officer approaching the classrooms when gunfire rings out at 11:37 a.m. Canales asks if he's bleeding, and later says he's bleeding from his ear.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chief: 3 dead in Indiana mall shooting; witness kills gunman

GREENWOOD, Ind. (AP)—Three people were fatally shot and two were injured Sunday evening at an Indiana mall after a man with a rifle opened fire in a food court and an armed civilian shot and killed him, police said. The man entered the Greenwood Park Mall with a rifle and several magazines of ammunition and began firing in the food court, Greenwood Police Department Chief Jim Ison said. A 22-year-old from nearby Bartholomew County who was legally carrying a firearm at the mall shot and killed the gunman, Ison said at a news conference. Four of those hit by gunfire were females and one was a male, Ison said. He didn't immediately know the specific gender or age of those who were killed. He said a 12-year-old girl was among the two injured, both of whom are in stable condition.

Trial expected to begin for ex-Trump adviser Steve Bannon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday in the trial of Steve Bannon, a one-time adviser to former President Donald Trump who faces criminal contempt of Congress charges after refusing for months to cooperate with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection. Bannon is charged in Washington's federal court with defying a subpoena from the Jan. 6 committee that sought his records and testimony. He was indicted in November on two counts of criminal contempt of Congress, one month after the Justice Department received a congressional referral. Each count carries a minimum of 30 days of jail and as long as a year behind bars. The trial follows a flurry of activity in the case since July 9. Over a week ago, the former White House strategist notified the committee that he is now willing to testify. His lawyer, Robert Costello, said the change was because Trump has waived his executive privilege claim from preventing the testimony.

4 dead after sheriff's office helicopter crash in New Mexico

LAS VEGAS, N.M. (AP)—Four people have been killed in a crash of a Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office helicopter that was headed back to Albuquerque after assisting firefighters in another New Mexico city, authorities said Sunday. Sheriff's officials said three people from the sheriff's office and a county firefighter were aboard the helicopter when it went down near Las Vegas, New Mexico, about 123 miles (197 kilometers) northeast of Albuquerque. Killed in the crash were Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lt. Fred Beers, Deputy Michael Levison and county Fire and Rescue Department Specialist Matthew King, according to sheriff's officials. The ages of the four men weren't immediately available.

Asia

Acting Sri Lanka prexy declares emergency amid major protests

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's acting president on Monday declared a state of emergency giving him broad authority amid growing protests demanding his resignation two days before the country's lawmakers are set to elect a new president.

Ranil Wickremesinghe became acting president on Friday after his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, fled abroad on Wednesday and resigned after months-long mass protests over the country's economic collapse.

Wickremesinghe's move to impose a state of emergency comes as protests demanding his resignation too have continued in most parts of the country, with some protesters burning his effigy.

Lawmakers who met on Saturday began the process of electing a new leader to serve the rest of the term abandoned by Rajapaksa. Nominations for the election of the new president will be heard on Tuesday, and if there is more than one candidate the lawmakers will vote on Wednesday.

The emergency decree issued by Wickremesinghe invokes sections of the Public Security Ordinance that allow him to make regulations in the interests of public security, the preservation of public order, the suppression of mutiny, riot or civil commotion, or for the maintenance of essential supplies.

Under the emergency regulations, Wickremesinghe can authorize detentions, take possession of any property and search any premises. He can also change or suspend any law.

The South Indian island nation is engulfed in an unprecedented economic crisis that has triggered political uncertainty.

Sri Lanka has run short of money to pay for imports of basic necessities such as food, fertilizer, medicine and fuel for its 22 million people. Its rapid economic decline has been all the more shocking because before the crisis the economy had been expanding, with a growing, comfortable middle class.

Sri Lanka is seeking help from the International Monetary Fund and other creditors, but top officials say its finances are so poor that even obtaining a bailout has proven difficult.

AP

Girls display their arms painted with message "Ranil go home' referring to Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at the protest site in Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 17, 2022.

China floods leave at least 12 dead, thousands evacuated

BEIJING (AP)—Flash floods in southwest and northwest China have left at least a dozen dead and put thousands of others in harm's way, state media reported Sunday.

In the southwestern province of Sichuan, at least six people have died and another 12 are missing after torrential rain triggered flash floods, state-owned news outlet CGTN reported.

Some 1,300 people had been evacuated as of Saturday, the report said.

Meanwhile, in Longnan city in the northwestern province of Gansu, another six deaths were reported and 3,000 people have been evacuated, state broadcaster CCTV said. Rainfall in 1 1/2 day was as much as 98.9 millimeters (3.9 inches) in the worst affected areas, almost double the July average.

The rains come amid a heat wave in parts of the country including eastern Zhejiang province and the city of Shanghai, with temperatures soaring as high as 42 degrees Celsius (107 Fahrenheit) last week.

Experts say such extreme weather events are becoming more likely because of climate change. Warmer air can store more water, leading to bigger cloudbursts when it's released.

The flooding adds to economic woes brought on partly by stringent "zero-COVID" measures restricting travel and disrupting supply chains.

China is not the only country experiencing extreme weather this summer. In Germany, low water levels in the Rhine due to droughts have disrupted the supply chain for commodities into the country. Heat waves have also hit the southern part of the U.S., with temperatures expected to soar over 38 C (100 F) in coming days.

Indian lawmakers vote for president, likely a tribal woman

NEW DELHI (AP)—Lawmakers began voting Monday to choose India's next president in an election expected to be won by a tribal woman from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

The election of Draupadi Murmu is a formality as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP controls enough seats in federal and state legislatures to push its favored candidate. She is also likely to get the support of other regional parties in state assemblies.

The president in India is chosen by an electoral college that consists of lawmakers in both houses of Parliament and elected members of the legislative assemblies of all states. The president's role is largely ceremonial, but the position can be important during times of political uncertainty such as a hung Parliament, when the office assumes greater power.

The votes from Monday's election will be counted Thursday.

Modi's party has projected Murmu as a leader representing poor tribal communities, which generally lacks health care and education facilities in remote villages. Murmu, 64, hails from the eastern of state Odisha and previously was governor of Jharkhand state.

If elected, she will become the first tribal president and the second-ever female president of India.

Murmu's main opponent is a former BJP rebel, a candidate put up by a divided opposition. Yashwant Sinha, 84, was finance minister during the previous BJP government from 1998 to 2002. He quit the party following a divergence with Modi on economic issues in 2018.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Marburg outbreak declared in Ghana

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP)—The World Health Organization has declared Ghana's first outbreak of the Ebola-like Marburg virus disease after labs confirmed the infections in two cases announced earlier this month. The disease, a very infectious hemorrhagic fever in the same family as Ebola, is spread to people by fruit bats and transmitted among people through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected people and surfaces, WHO said.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy fires top security chief and prosecutor

VINNYTSIA, Ukraine (AP)—As Russian troops pressed their offensive in Ukraine's east, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired his state security chief and prosecutor general on Sunday, citing hundreds of criminal proceedings into treason and collaboration by people within their departments and other law enforcement agencies. "In particular, more than 60 employees of the prosecutor's office and the SBU (state security service) have remained in the occupied territory and work against our state," Zelenskyy said. "Such an array of crimes against the foundations of the state's national security, and the links recorded between Ukrainian security forces and Russian special services raise very serious questions about their respective leaders," he said in his nightly video address to the nation. Zelenskyy dismissed Ivan Bakanov, a childhood friend and former business partner whom he had appointed to head the SBU. Bakanov had come under growing criticism over security breaches since the war began; Politico last month cited several unidentified Ukrainian and Western sources saying Zelenskyy was looking to replace him.

In loving memory of
†JUANITA PALMAN PROPST
July 3, 1937 to July 12, 2022

In her new home, Juanita will be greeted and reunited with her
Husband of 56 years: Ivan Kenneth Propst, Jr.
Parents: Zacharias Palman and Gloria Saavedra Palman
Siblings and In-laws: Magno and Adelina Pabelico; Dolores and Francisco Magallano; Francisca and Eutiquio Acasio; Guillermo and Marciana Palman; Peregrino and Maxima Palman; Felipe and Hilaria Palman; Lourdes Palman
Parents in law: Ivan K. Propst and Dorothy Paulsen Propst

Her memories will forever be in the hearts of her:
Children/Grandchildren/Great grandchildren:
Maria "Lynn" and Jon Gersonde [Derek and Elena (Javon and Ryusei); Austen; Danielle]
Gloria and Vernon Perez [Veronica; Sylvia; Yvonne]
Edwin and Daisy Propst [Kiana; Devin; Kaden; Logan]
In-Laws: Donna Greenlee; Ann and Gary Beasley
Caregivers: Zenaida Cachuela; Lilia Ordonez; Myrra Francisco

She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends throughout the U.S. mainland, Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, Palau, American Samoa and Norway.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at San Jose Church at 6pm, except for Sunday, at 9am. Last respects will be on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at Kristo Rai Church with viewing from 8am-10am followed by mass.

Undangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase, Ghilissow, Maraming salamat po, Ke kmal me sulang, Mahalo, Fa'afetai tele lava, and Thank you.

THE PROPST FAMILY

Overdrive

The Japanese-market Toyota Crown returns to the United States

BILL LEIGH BREWER/TOYOTA/TNS

The Toyota Crown returns to the U.S. for the new model year, but it's quite different from the Avalon that it replaces.

If you've been a fan of the Toyota Avalon, you might be distressed to know that the car that started life with the internal corporate nickname the Fat Camry will motor into the history books come August. Initially an attempt to lure Detroit full-size sedan buyers — it even had a bench seat — the Avalon always attracted an, ahem, more mature buyer.

Of course, the name never helped. Maybe they shouldn't have chosen a moniker that refers to the legendary island where King Arthur is buried. After all, this car has traditionally offered a similar dose of eternal ethereal serenity to a clientele about to face the same.

Of course, it's not like Toyota didn't try to entice younger buyers.

In effort to ditch the Avalon's geezer pleaser image, the company offered an Avalon TRD, which stands for Toyota Racing Development. They blackened its exterior trim, added a cat-back exhaust, and filtered the engine's sound through the vehicle's audio system and tuned an aggressive note during acceleration. They even lowered the car's ride height by 0.6 inch, which is anathema for those with aging joints. OK, it only had 19-inch wheels, but it was a start.

None of it worked. In an era where sedans are being given short shrift by consumers, full-sized ones are especially DOA. Yet the Avalon's redesign did nothing to stop its flagging fortunes. In 2018, Toyota sold 33,581 Avalons. Redesigned the following year, sales sank 17.3% to 27,767 units. Last year, the company sold 19,460 units, 42% fewer than four years earlier. Some of that could be attributed to pandemic-related shortages, of course. But it's easy to read the writing on the wall.

So Toyota has ditched the Avalon, replacing it with the Toyota Crown, the company's oldest nameplate. It made its debut as the Toyopet Crown in 1955, and was the first Japanese automobile to be offered in the United States, beginning in 1958. Toyota stopped selling it in the United States in 1972.

The Crown returns to the states for the new model year, but it's quite different from the Avalon that it replaces. Certainly, the company learned from the mistake of the Avalon TRD. Instead of lowering the Crown's height, they raised it, endowing it with the height of a contemporary crossover. Yet its design is that of a modern Toyota sedan, albeit with a slick sloping rear aspect. Its proportion is unusual, but calls to mind that of the Mercedes-Benz EQS, a vehicle that resides in a nether region that's not as low as a car but not as tall as a true SUV.

Those with bad joints are going to love it.

Toyota will offer the car in ascending XLE, Limited and Platinum trim levels with a choice of two gas-electric hybrid powertrains. It's built on the TNGA-K platform that underpins the current Toyota Avalon, Camry, Highlander, RAV4 and Sienna, among other Toyota and Lexus models. It uses a MacPherson front suspension and a multi-link rear.

Top-of-the-line Platinum models will be fitted with the Hybrid Max driveline, Toyota's performance-oriented hybrid system that uses a 2.4-liter turbocharged engine, an electric motor on each axle, and a direct shift six-speed automatic transmission. The powertrain generates 340 horsepower while returning an estimated manufacturer-estimated 28 mpg. Toyota says it tuned the Hybrid Max system to deliver peak torque at 2,000-3,000 rpm to enhance its driving fun. All-wheel drive is standard, and can vary the power deliver from 70% front, 30% rear, to 20% front, 80% rear. Adjustable drive mode selection is also standard, with Normal, Eco, Sport, Sport+, Comfort and Custom driving modes.

Other models will use the more efficient, fourth generation hybrid system equipped with a normally aspirated 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and a continuously variable automatic transmission that returns an estimated 38 mpg. Toyota didn't reveal any horsepower figures for this driveline, however. A drive mode selector with Normal, Eco and Sport driving modes is standard.

All Crowns have dual zone climate control, a 12.3-inch color digital instrument cluster, acoustic glass to reduce noise, and a 12.3-inch touchscreen with Toyota's new multimedia system that was developed in America that includes a cloud-based native navigation system with over-the-air updates. A six-speaker sound system is standard on the XLE, as is wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, Bluetooth and with Wi-Fi 4G connectivity for up to five smartphones,

Crown Platinum and Limited grades include a standard panoramic moonroof. A six-speaker sound system is standard on the XLE. Other trims get a JBL premium audio system with 11 speakers, including a rear subwoofer, powered by an 8-channel amplifier.

Opting for the top-of-the-line Platinum also brings with it an adaptive variable suspension, 21-inch machined 10-spoke alloy wheels with black accents, and two-tone paint.

Certainly, it makes for a far more compelling package than the sedan it replaces. But will the 2023 Toyota Crown win back buyers who are inexplicably addicted to SUVs? That remains to be seen.

Its higher ride height will help, and the Crown seems to be a far more sensible solution than an SUV in an age where people work remotely and nearly everything can be delivered to your house.

It also seems to be a far more youthful and appealing answer to the question of how to attract younger buyers to larger cars.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Toyota Crown Platinum

- Powertrain: 2.4-liter turbocharged engine and dual electric motors
- Horsepower: 340 horsepower
- Fuel economy: 28 mpg combined (Toyota estimate)
- Wheelbase 112.2 inches
- Length 194 inches
- Width 72.4 inches
- Height 60.6 inches

Which gas should I use?

YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS/TNS

An Exxon gasoline station in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Q: I bought a 2018 Ford Edge Sport new and have driven it for almost four years. The dealership said to use 87 octane gas so that's what I've been using. My manual says anything from 87 to 91. Where I fill up, 88 octane is usually a little cheaper, although one day it was 40 cents less per gallon. Would there be any harm to switching to 88 gas after all this time of using 87? I've tried to look it up but I'm seeing either yes, I can, or no, don't do it. Just trying to save a few dollars if I can.

A: Yes, you can. That 88-octane fuel is 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline. It is called E15. There is a slight fuel economy trade-off. According to the Department of Energy, you will likely get 4% to 5% fewer miles per gallon with E15.

■■■

Q: Here's how to avoid the garage door being opened, especially if the garage is attached and the car is parked in the driveway. To avoid break-ins, I installed a wall switch between the opener motor power and my garage door opener switch on the wall. If you park for the night, turn the power off for the opener. In this way, no one can lift the door even if your car is broken into.

A: Not a bad idea. Another option is to install a smartphone controlled electrical socket adapter on the motor. You can deactivate and reactivate your garage door opener from almost anywhere.

■■■

Q: My son is heading to college next month and will be taking his 2010 Infiniti EX35 with him so he can drive home for holidays. The car will not be driven often, maybe the occasional trip to the store or to visit his girlfriend. Should I instruct him to take it out once a week? If so for how long? Any other advice?

A: With the price of gas, he should take public transportation to see his girlfriend and do his shopping. The car will be fine sitting in the school's lot, but short hops may not provide adequate battery charging so a solar smart charger may help.

Q: In your recent article about the 2014 Toyota Camry you suggest a "fresh new—2022—battery" for the key fob. Correction: it's a—2032—battery.

A: I knew that, but my fingers didn't cooperate.

■■■

Q: I once left my door ajar leaving a dome light on, thus draining the battery of my 2007 Honda Ridgeline. I knew a jump-start would get me back on the road and allow the alternator to recharge it, but without another car available for a standard jump-start, I was stuck at home for hours waiting for my roadside assistance to show up. Can you recommend a portable battery jumper I could keep in my truck in case this happens again? It gets ridiculously hot here in Las Vegas, so can said jumper be safe to keep in my truck?

A: There are plenty of portable jump-start devices available both online and at your favorite auto parts or big box store. I would hope the desert heat would not harm them. When you are out and about, you should have no problem getting a good Samaritan to provide a jump-start so a set of cables is all you need. Leave the power pack in your garage.

MOTORMOUTH
By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest*. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

Jennifer Lopez, Ben Affleck wed in Las Vegas drive-through

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck were wed Saturday in a late-night Las Vegas drive-through chapel, culminating a relationship that stretched over two decades in two separate romances and headlined countless tabloid covers.

Lopez announced their marriage Sunday in her newsletter for fans with the heading "We did it." Lopez initially made their engagement public in April on the same newsletter, "On the J Lo."

"Love is beautiful. Love is kind. And it turns out love is patient. Twenty years patient," wrote Lopez in a message signed Jennifer Lynn Affleck.

Lopez wrote that the couple flew to Las Vegas on Saturday, stood in line for their license with four other couples and were wed just after midnight at A Little White Wedding Chapel, a chapel boasting a drive-through "tunnel of love." Lopez said a Bluetooth speaker played their brief march down the aisle. She called it the best night of their lives.

"Stick around long enough and maybe you'll find the best moment of your life in a drive through in Las Vegas at 12:30 in the morning in the tunnel of love drive through with your kids and the one you'll spend forever with," said Lopez.

AP

Cast member Jennifer Lopez, right, and Ben Affleck attend a photo call for a special screening of "Marry Me" at DGA Theater on Feb. 8, 2022, in Los Angeles.

News of their nuptials first spread Sunday after the Clark County clerk's office in Nevada showed that the pair obtained a marriage license that was processed Saturday. The marriage license filing showed that Lopez plans to take the name Jennifer Affleck.

Representatives for Lopez and Affleck declined to comment.

Lopez, 52, and Affleck, 49, famously dated in the early 2000s, spawning the nickname "Bennifer," before rekindling their romance last year. They earlier starred together in 2003's "Gigli" and 2004's "Jersey Girl." Around that time, they became engaged but never wed.

Millions in jewels stolen from armored truck in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Millions of dollars worth of gems and jewelry were stolen in an armored truck robbery last week in Southern California, authorities said Sunday.

The Brink's truck was robbed in the early morning on July 11 near Los Angeles, said Dana Callahan, a spokeswoman for the security company.

The merchandise had been loaded onto the truck late on July 10 following an exhibit hosted by the International Gem and Jewelry Show in San Mateo, south of San Francisco, said Brandy Swanson, the group's director. It was going to an event at the Pasadena Convention Center just northeast of Los Angeles, she said.

Swanson said between 25 and 30 bags were taken, containing an unknown number of individual pieces. She said 18 victims were reporting more than $100 million in losses. Callahan said it was less than $10 million.

"According to the information the customers provided to us before they shipped their items, the total value of the missing items is less than $10 million," Brink's said in a statement. "We are working with law enforcement, and we will fully reimburse our customers for the value of their assets that were stolen, in accordance with the terms of our contract."

Laura Eimiller, spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Los Angeles, said the robbery was in the desert city of Lancaster in northern LA County. Eimiller said the bureau agency was working with local authorities, but she could not immediately provide more information.

A dispatcher with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which patrols Lancaster, didn't have information about the investigation on Sunday.

'Thor' stays No. 1, while 'Crawdads' opens strong

NEW YORK (AP)—The Marvel sequel "Thor: Love & Thunder" dropped a hefty 68% in its second weekend of release but still held the top spot at the box office, according to studio estimates Sunday, while the bestseller adaptation "Where the Crawdads Sing" debuted with a better-than-expected $17 million.

Taika Waititi's "Love and Thunder" led all films with an estimated $46 million, bringing its two-week global total to $498 million. The sizable decline is more than most Marvel films but in line with recent releases from the Walt Disney Co. superhero studio, including "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (68%), "Black Widow" (68%) and "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" (67%).

"Love and Thunder" also faced a trio of newcomers, though none came close to toppling Chris Hemsworth's god of thunder. Best among them was Sony Pictures' "Where the Crawdads Sing," Olivia Newman's adaptation of Delia Owens' 2018 North Carolina-set novel. It opened well despite weak reviews (36% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes).

The Reese Witherspoon-produced mystery stars Daisy Edgar-Jones as a woman who raised herself in the coastal Carolina marshlands and focuses on a murder investigation of a local celebrity. Moviegoers liked it better than critics, giving it an A- CinemaScore.

It was a particularly good result for a page-to-screen drama, and another sign that adult audiences—who have also helped fuel the success of "Top Gun: Maverick" (still in fourth place with $12 million in its eighth weekend) and "Elvis" (up to $106.2 million after four weeks)—are nearly all the way back to pre-pandemic levels after going largely absent for much of the last two-plus years.

Appealing to a similar demographic, Focus Features' "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris," starring Lesley Manville as a London cleaner who pines for a Dior dress, also opened strongly, with $1.9 million in 980 theaters. Said Focus distribution chief Lisa Bunnell: "Older movie-goers are returning to enjoy the in-theater experience."

Meanwhile, the Illumination animated sequel "Minions: The Rise of Gru" held the second spot with $26 million in its third weekend of release. The Universal Pictures release has thus far grossed $262.6 million domestically and $532.7 million worldwide, setting box-office records along the way.

The Minions made it difficult for a new family entry: "Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank." The Paramount Pictures animated release, loosely adapted from Mel Brooks' "Blazing Saddles," launched with a modest $6.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Thor:** Love and Thunder," $46 million.
2. **"Minions: The Rise of Gru,"** $26 million.
3. **"Where the Crawdads Sing,"** $17 million.
4. **"Top Gun: Maverick,"** $12 million.
5. **"Elvis,"** $7.6 million.
6. **"Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank,"** $6.3 million
7. **"The Black Phone,"** $5.3 million.
8. **"Jurassic: Dominion,"** $5 million.
9. **"Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris,"** $1.9 million.
10. **"Lightyear,"** $1.3 million.

Woman can't stop thinking about her husband's friend

DEAR ABBY: I have a huge crush on my husband's friend, "Shane." I think about him daily and fantasize about him every night. He used to come into the place where I work once a month. I wanted to tell him back then how I felt, but I chickened out.

I recently changed jobs, and he came into where I work now. I made a point of talking to him but said nothing about how I feel. I'm sure he could tell by the way I was smiling. I went to the races when Shane was racing and wanted to tell him then. My husband was there and went over to talk to him, so I stayed sitting on the bleachers. When my husband returned, he said Shane asked him where I was.

Abby, I have felt this way for two years. My husband and I have been married for seven. When I'm driving home from work, I fantasize about Shane riding in the car with me. I hurry to get to town hoping I'll see him at the gas station or passing by. I'm considering contacting him on Messenger. I have never thought about my husband this way. Please give me some advice on what to do.

OVER THE MOON IN MISSOURI

DEAR OVER: Nowhere in your letter did you mention whether your feelings for Shane are reciprocated. If you contact him, what exactly do you plan on telling him—that you love him? That you lust for him? Your efforts would be better spent trying to figure out what happened to the excitement in your marriage rather than starting a romance with your husband's friend.

If you do what you have in mind and Shane doesn't feel the same way, it will be enormously embarrassing. If he does have similar feelings, your husband will be devastated. The next time you have a fantasy about Shane, I urge you to switch to another channel.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson is 24. He was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome after he graduated from high school. He was first diagnosed with ADHD when he was young, then, years later, as bipolar. Since high school, he spends his time in his bedroom playing video games. He has no social interactions and doesn't engage much, if at all, with his two younger brothers. He also doesn't get along well with his stepfather.

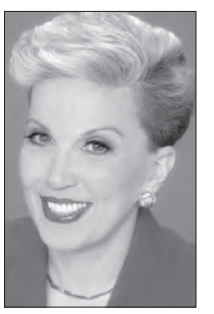
My daughter, his mother, is desperate for help but has been unable to find it. Most programs are designed for children or are too far away. Even trying to find a counselor locally who specializes in Asperger's has led to blind alleys.

Where do we go to find help for him? He's very functional but somewhat naive socially, and my daughter is fearful of him falling in with the wrong crowd. He has become depressed, and after years of turning his nose up at getting help, he actually wants it now. What do we do?

SEEKING HELP IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SEEKING: Forcing help on a person who isn't ready usually accomplishes little. That your grandson is finally willing to accept that he needs help is hopeful. Suggest that your daughter reach out to an organization called AANE, the Asperger/Autism Network, and ask for guidance for her son. To have questions and concerns addressed and to receive information and resources, she should visit aane.org.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

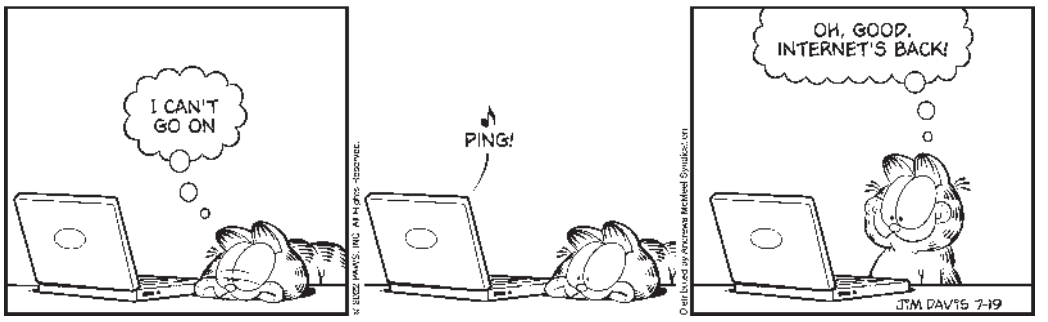
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM, HOBBES TAKES MY COMIC BOOKS AND READS THEM BEFORE I DO! MAKE HIM STOP!
UM...
HE SPOILS ALL THE GOOD PARTS TOO! HE YELLS OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING WHILE HE'S READING!
HE GOES, "OH NO, CAPTAIN STEROID IS GETTING HIS KIDNEYS PUNCHED OUT WITH AN I-BEAM! OH GROSS, NOW HE'S BLEEDING ALL OVER THE...
LET ME SEE THIS COMIC BOOK
NOW DON'T YOU READ IT FIRST!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



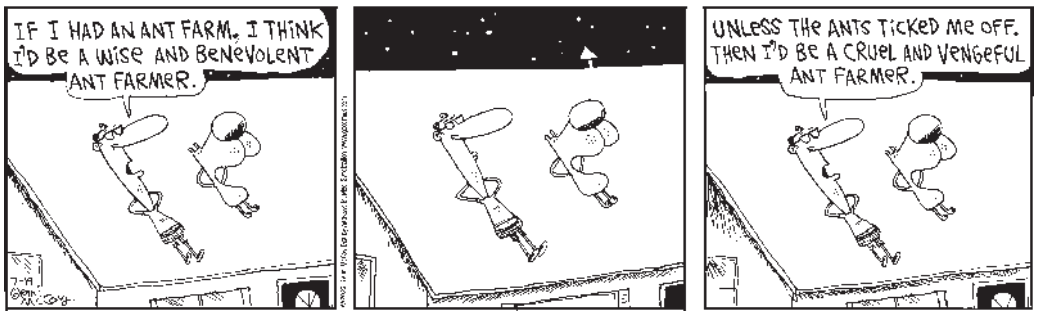
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO YOU WANT TO BE...
KINDER?
I CAN ADMIT IT. MY SASSINESS MAY HAVE CROSSED INTO SOMETHING A LITTLE HARSHER.
SO CAN YOU HELP ME?
SO, LIKE, "NICE LESSONS"?
WELL, WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, I WANNA BARF.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IF I HAD AN ANT FARM. I THINK I'D BE A WISE AND BENEVOLENT ANT FARMER.
UNLESS THE ANTS TICKED ME OFF. THEN I'D BE A CRUEL AND VENGEFUL ANT FARMER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

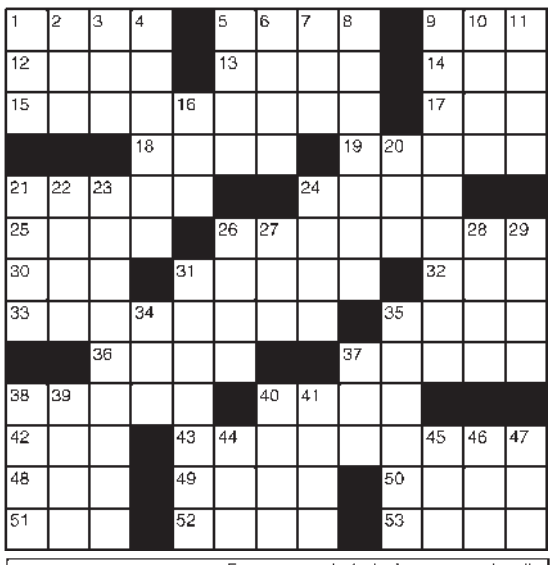
ACROSS
1 Broadway flop
5 Foot part
9 Urban carrier
12 Vivacity, in music
13 "Funny!"
14 Flamenco cheer
15 Rural tourist attractions
17 Skier Tommy
18 Actress Neuwirth
19 Serious
21 Wide, fancy necktie
24 Jazz singer Laine
25 Noggin
26 Reeve role
30 Einstein's birthplace
31 Mini-plateaus
32 Green prefix
33 Pudding choices
35 Fire-cracker sound
36 Grecian vessels
37 Embedded spies
38 Bas-relief medium
40 Reed instrument
42 Pirates' quaff
43 Duncan Hines products
48 Nest egg letters
49 Old Italian money
50 Protuberance
51 Mom's mate
52 Flair
53 Toe malady

DOWN
1 Telly network
2 Granada gold
3 Russian space station
4 Chocolate-coated treat
5 Melville captain
6 Demolish
7 "Evita" role
8 Pesters
9 Fast-food deal
10 Balm ingredient
11 Tavern order
16 Bumped into
20 "— the ramparts ..."
21 Border on
22 Actress Ward
23 College handout for a freshman
24 Tax prep pros
26 Brief moments
27 Can. neighbor
28 Dreaded breakout
29 Eggy drinks
31 Prop for Mr. Peanut
34 Apr. addressee
35 Aircraft manufacturer
37 May honoree
38 Clench
39 Franc replacer
40 Gumbo need
41 Existed
44 Have a cold
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Sch. URL ender
47 Filming site

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	T	A	S	■	H	S	T	■	C	A	L	F
V	I	R	T	U	O	S	O	■	O	L	I	O
■	C	N	E	D	O	W	N	■	R	E	A	P
■	■	■	N	O	D	■	N	I	N	E	R	S
R	A	D	O	N	■	C	A	G	E	■	■	■
A	M	I	S	■	E	A	G	E	R	L	Y	■
P	A	S	■	T	V	S	E	T	■	Y	A	M
■	T	H	R	O	A	T	S	■	D	C	L	T
■	■	■	U	R	N	S	■	C	A	N	E	S
I	I	I	S	S	F	S	■	B	A	R	■	■
■	C	E	T	■	T	H	O	R	N	T	O	N
D	C	M	E	■	O	U	T	L	I	E	R	S
E	N	I	D	■	N	I	H	■	I	A	I	A

Yesterday's answer 7-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trai Byers, 39; Jared Padalecki, 40; Angela Griffin, 46; Nancy Carell, 56.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused on the results you want, and don't deviate from your plan to get you to your comfort zone. Setting up guidelines that will keep you on course will help you target your mark and reach your goal. Refuse to let temptation step in and slow you down. Protect your health and emotional well-being from outside influences. Your numbers are 1, 8, 23, 26, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think big, but keep things in perspective. Hone your skills and apply what you do and know to every facet of life. Refuse to let obstacles stand between you and victory. Look at each situation you encounter to find another solution. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Excuses are easy to come up with, but if you want to make the most of your day, take hold of whatever situation you face and put muscle behind your plan. Step up, show everyone what you can do and enjoy the response. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't ignore the signs. Tune in to what's going on around you to avoid making a mistake. Diligence will pay off and help alleviate uncertainty and confusion. Choose to advance instead of treading water, and the universe will unfold. ✪✪✪✪s

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be moderate and avoid getting caught in something avoidable. Too much of anything will slow you down and cause strain on you emotionally and physically. Choose your words and battles wisely. Take a tried-and-true method and give it a unique twist. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let the changes you encounter throw you off guard. You'll find it easier to meet your intent if you keep your plans firmly in mind. Persistence and hands-on technique will make it difficult for others to complain. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Sign up for something different, and you won't be disappointed. Your involvement in things you care about will bring you in contact with someone who fires you up and inspires you to make a difference. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll attract people who will take advantage of you if you give them a chance. Don't take a risk with your heart or your cash. Listen, but don't divulge your feelings or next move. Think big, but live within your means. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Relax and mull over what puts a smile on your face. Discuss what you'd like to adjust in your life with the people who can help you reach your goal. Say what's on your mind, be truthful and offer reasonable solutions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Concentrate on home, family and partnerships. Address issues that can cause problems before they have a chance to fester. Listen, and you'll gather information that will help keep the peace and get things done on time. Don't let envy be your downfall. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spend time pampering, enjoying the company of loved ones and altering situations to make your life easier. Don't overreact when what's required is understanding and positive support. Physical activity geared toward self-improvement will help you stay in shape. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to where your money goes. Address how you live and who contributes to your expenses or costs you money. Change the way you help those who are a financial burden by pointing them in the direction of self-prosperity. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Explore and discover. Try your hand at something that excites you. Follow your heart and appease your soul, and you'll feel better about life and the path you choose to take. Reward yourself with something that contributes to good health. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charitable, unique and forceful. You are friendly and possessive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	6			1
	9	1	3			
2	3					
9	4			1	3	
			9	7	2	
			4	8		1
						3
					4	5
6					1	7

		8
		9
		2
2	8	
5	9	
		4
		5
		9

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	4	5	7	2	1	9	6	3
6	2	3	8	4	9	5	1	7
1	7	9	3	5	6	8	4	2
4	8	7	2	9	3	6	5	1
9	3	6	1	7	5	4	2	8
5	1	2	4	6	8	7	3	9
2	6	8	9	3	4	1	7	5
3	5	1	6	8	7	2	9	4
7	9	4	5	1	2	3	8	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HEAD ACCESSORIES Solution: 9 letters

M	E	L	K	R	A	P	S	R	A	E	T	A	C	R
O	L	C	F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	N	R	H	O
T	A	A	P	W	R	E	A	T	H	A	Y	I	A	T
S	D	P	T	E	N	F	W	H	D	S	N	B	R	A
U	I	S	H	E	A	E	L	N	T	E	E	B	M	N
C	R	A	D	S	M	R	A	A	S	A	W	O	D	I
R	B	O	H	E	U	B	L	T	D	R	E	N	V	C
O	O	I	S	A	U	R	O	S	F	A	D	S	I	S
W	O	H	B	J	I	N	B	R	A	I	D	Ⓟ	N	A
N	S	I	L	V	E	R	I	A	E	T	Ⓘ	V	E	F
F	R	A	C	S	O	W	T	Q	L	Ⓝ	N	E	R	T
L	P	E	T	A	L	S	E	I	U	N	G	I	I	E
A	D	Y	N	I	A	H	C	L	E	E	N	L	W	R
C	L	I	P	S	H	A	T	S	R	G	R	O	S	E
E	I	H	C	N	U	R	C	S	E	Y	B	B	O	B

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Bandana, Beads, Beret, Bobby, Braid, Bridal, Brush, Caps, Cat Ears, Chain, Charm, Clip, Crown, Crystal, Custom, Fascinator, Fashion, Forehead, Fringe, Hair Tie, Halo, Hats, Jewelry, Lace, Leaf, Mesh, Metal, Pearl, Petals, Pin, Rhinestones, Ribbons, Rose, Scarf, Scrunchie, Shawl, Silver, Sparkle, Style, Tiara, Unique, Veil, Vine, Wedding, Wire, Wooden, Wreath

Yesterday's Answer: Movies

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Mariners win 14th in row, Rodríguez key hit to beat Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Julio Rodríguez and Ty France are headed to the All-Star Game, so they won't be among the Seattle Mariners getting the break their manager says they need.

Yeah, Scott Servais knows that time off thing sounds a little funny.

"It's hard to say you need a break when you win 14 games in a row," the Seattle skipper said after a 6-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

Sure is.

Rodríguez hit a two-run double and France homered after joining the rookie sensation on the AL team as the Mariners moved closer to the team record of 15 consecutive wins. That streak came during their most recent playoff season in 2001, when they went 116-46.

The 14-game winning streak is the longest going into an All-Star break in major league history.

"That's a tough one," France said. "I think it'll be good for us to kind of let our bodies recover. There's a lot of guys in that locker room, they play every day, they're playing hurt, they're playing banged up. These next couple of days will be good for them and hopefully we can just keep that rolling."

Cal Raleigh's two-run homer put the Mariners ahead for good in the fourth inning as they matched reigning World Series champion Atlanta's June streak for the longest this season. St. Louis had a 17-game winning string last year.

Rodríguez, who wasn't even six months old the last time the Mariners were on a streak this long 21 years ago, lined a double off the wall in left-center field in the seventh, then raced home on France's single for a 6-1 lead.

The 21-year-old from the Dominican Republic was barely hitting .200 and didn't have any of his 16 homers on May 1. Now Rodríguez is the first rookie All-Star for the Mariners since Ichiro Suzuki in — yeah, you guessed it — 2001.

"This is a stretch we're in, I don't think anybody will ever forget it," Servais said. "But what a way to end the first half."

AP

Seattle Mariners Cal Raleigh (29) flexes with teammate Eugenio Suarez (28) after Raleigh's two run homer during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Yankees 13, Red Sox 2

In New York, Gerrit Cole brushed back Rafael Devers and struck out 12 over seven innings, Matt Carpenter drove in three more runs and New York pounded Boston after Red Sox ace Chris Sale broke his left pinkie finger in the first inning.

The Yankees reached double-digit runs for the 16th time — no other team has more than 10 such games — and cruised into the All-Star break with a major league-best record of 64-28. Their 64 wins matched the 2018 Astros for third-most prior to the break since the All-Star Game began in 1933.

Cole (9-2) dusted Devers off the plate with a low, 99 mph fastball on his first pitch to the third baseman after allowing two homers to him July 7 in Boston. Devers glared at Cole from the dirt, then struck out swinging at a high fastball.

Carpenter had an RBI groundout in a three-run first inning and added a two-run double in an eight-run fourth. Carpenter drove in 10 runs over the final two games of the first half and has 34 RBIs in 31 games since joining the Yankees on May 26.

Aaron Hicks hit a pair of RBI singles, including the hit that fractured Sale's left pinkie. Sale yelled in pain and exited after attempting to field Hicks' 106.7 mph liner.

Sale (0-1) was making his second start since returning from a fractured right rib that he sustained working out on his own during the major league lockout.

White Sox 11, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Dylan Cease spun a one-hitter over seven innings in his latest masterful start, and Chicago walloped Minnesota and surged into the All-Star break by winning three out of four against the first-place Twins.

Cease (9-4) allowed only a fifth-inning single to Alex Kirilloff and two walks. Andrew Vaughn had three hits and three RBIs to help bring the White Sox within three games of Minnesota in the AL Central. Cleveland is two games back.

The White Sox had 16 hits, including home runs by Yoán Moncada, Vaughn and Josh Harrison in the seventh inning.

Tim Anderson's two-out, two-strike, two-run single gave Chicago the lead in the fifth inning against Twins starter Chris Archer (2-4), who was cruising in his return from the 15-day injured list for left hip tightness until a two-out walk to Seby Zavala.

Giants 9, Brewers 5

In San Francisco, Logan Webb (9-3) pitched six strong innings for his ninth win to keep San Francisco rolling into the All-Star break with a victory over slumping Milwaukee.

LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a three-run home run. Brandon Belt also connected and drove in three runs as the Giants won their third straight against the Brewers after dropping the series opener. San Francisco has won seven of nine overall heading into the All-Star break after losing 14 of its previous 18.

The NL Central-leading Brewers are heading in the opposite direction with their eighth loss in 11 games.

Belt had a two-out, broken-bat RBI single off Aaron Ashby (2-7) as a pinch-hitter in the second, then hit a two-run homer to right off Jason Alexander in the sixth.

Blue Jays 4, Royals 2

In Toronto, Alejandro Kirk hit a two-run home run in the eighth inning, sending Toronto over Kansas City, in last place in the AL Central, was without 10 unvaccinated players, including All-Star outfielder Andrew Benintendi and infielder Whit Merrifield, during this four-game series in Toronto.

Both teams scored a pair of runs in the first few innings, but that was the extent of the offense until Kirk's homer off Wyatt Mills (0-1).

Left-hander Tim Mayza (3-0) took over for José Berríos out of the bullpen, working 1 2/3 innings in relief with two strikeouts to pick up the win. Jordan Romano worked a perfect ninth for his 20th save of the season.

Rays 7, Orioles 5

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brett Phillips, Randy Arozarena and Francisco Mejía homered as Tampa Bay beat Baltimore 7-5 despite losing hot-hitting Harold Ramírez to a broken thumb.

Ramírez, who was batting .329 in 77 games as a first baseman/outfielder, was hit in the right thumb by a pitch from Jordan Lyles (6-8) in the first. Ramírez stayed in the game, scored a run and exited the next inning. He will be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Rougned Odor and Austin Hays homered for Baltimore, which is 46-46 at the break after going 52-110 last season.

Corey Kluber (6-5) gave up four runs and eight hits over six innings to win his third consecutive start. Jason Adam worked the ninth to get this fourth save in five chances.

Cubs 3, Mets 2

In Chicago, Nico Hoerner hit a tiebreaking RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning, and Chicago stopped a nine-game slide by topping New York.

Christopher Morel sparked Chicago's winning rally with a leadoff infield single against Drew Smith (1-3). Morel advanced to third on Willson Contreras' single and scored on Ian Happ's tapper to the right of the mound.

After Seiya Suzuki popped out, Hoerner's liner into center drove in Contreras from second for a 3-2 lead. Hoerner finished with three hits.

Rowan Wick (2-5) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and David Robertson got three outs for his 13th save.

Nationals 7, Braves 3

In Washington, Juan Soto and Victor Robles homered, and Washington beat Atlanta to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Soto, Washington's lone All-Star who could be traded by the end of the month, hit a solo shot in the eighth inning to extend his on-base streak to a career-high 26 games. The Nationals haven't dropped 10 in a row since an 11-game skid that spanned the 2008 and 2009 seasons. At 31-63, they have the worst record in the majors at the All-Star break.

The Nationals did much of their damage against starter Spencer Strider (4-3) in the second. Ehire Adrianza lined a two-run single to center. Robles followed with his second homer of the season, a fly to left that just sailed into the visitor's bullpen.

Steve Cishek (1-2) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings, stranding the potential tying run at second in the fourth inning.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Merrill Kelly gave up one run in six innings and David Peralta hit a solo homer to lead Arizona over San Diego.

Kelly (9-5) kept the Padres off-balance by mixing his pitches and allowed six hits while striking out five. Mark Melancon retired the Padres in order in the ninth to earn his 13th save.

San Diego's Luke Voit knocked Kelly out of the game with a homer to left in the seventh inning, his second in two games. The Padres concluded their first half by losing six of their last nine games.

San Diego starter Mike Clevinger (2-3) worked six innings, allowing four hits and striking out eight but lost his third straight start.

Athletics 4, Astros 3

In Houston, Stephen Vogt hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Oakland wrapped up a shaky first half by beating Houston.

Ramón Laureano homered for the A's, who went into the All-Star break at 32-61, the worst record in the AL. Kyle Tucker and Jeremy Peña homered for Houston, which holds the second-best record in the AL at 59-32.

Vogt, who had a pinch-hit sacrifice fly in the sixth, had a two-out single down the right field line in the eighth off Rafael Montero (3-1).

A.J. Puk (2-1) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. Zach Jackson threw a scoreless eighth and Lou Trevino pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Pirates 8, Rockies 3

In Denver, Kyle Newman and Michael Chavis had three hits apiece, and Pittsburgh ended its 12-game road trip with a win over Colorado.

Jason Delay and Jason Marisnick also had two hits and Tyler Beede (1-1) pitched two innings of relief for the Pirates.

Elías Díaz doubled and tripled for Colorado, which had its five-game winning streak snapped. Brendan Rodgers and C.J. Cron had two hits each and Austin Gomber allowed three runs in five innings of work for the Rockies.

Pittsburgh went in front in the sixth against reliever Jake Bird (1-1). Delay singled, went to third on Newman's double and scored on a groundout by Ke'Bryan Hayes. Chavis followed with a sharp single to right to bring home Newman and make it 5-3.

Phillies 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Aaron Nola struck out 10 and pitched scoreless ball into the ninth inning as Philadelphia beat Miami for a three-game sweep.

Yairo Muñoz homered to help Philadelphia head into the All-Star break at 49-43. Even minus injured star Bryce Harper, the Phillies showed a dramatic turnaround after manager Joe Girardi was fired on June 3, going 27-14 under Rob Thomson.

Nola (6-7) gave up four hits and walked one. He was pulled after allowing one-out singles to Joey Wendle and Brian Anderson in the ninth. José Alvarado got his first save.

The Phillies scored all their runs in the fourth. Alec Bohm and Matt Vierling had consecutive RBI doubles and Muñoz hit a two-run homer. Muñoz drove the first pitch from Trevor Rogers (4-9) over the wall in left for his third homer.

Smith rallies to beat McIlroy at British Open for 1st major

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—The stage at St. Andrews was all set for Rory McIlroy.

The show belonged to Cameron Smith, and so did that silver claret jug he won in a Sunday stunner at the British Open with the best closing round the Old Course had ever seen.

Smith was four shots behind at the start as a record crowd was eager to see McIlroy cap off a week of celebrations at the 150th Open in style. He was three behind when he made the turn.

And then the plucky Australian with his magical putter ran off five straight birdies to take the lead, stared down a nervy putt around the edge of the nefarious Road Hole bunker to save par and finished with two putts from 80 feet for birdie for an 8-under 64.

"To win an Open Championship in itself is probably going to be a golfer's highlight in their career," Smith said. "To do it around St. Andrews I think is just unbelievable."

So was his golf.

In the 29 previous times golf's oldest championship was held at St. Andrews, no winner had ever closed with a 64. Smith finished at 20-under 268, a record score for the Old Course and matching the lowest score to par in any major.

"I got beaten by the better player this week. To go out and shoot 64 to win the Open Championship at St. Andrews is a hell of a showing. Hats off to Cam," McIlroy said.

McIlroy hit every green in regulation and two-putted all of them — two were birdies, the rest were pars — for a 70 that left him in third place and having to wait nearly nine months before he can try to end his drought in the majors that now is at eight full years.

Smith won by one shot over Cameron Young, who holed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole to ever-so-briefly tie for the lead.

It wasn't enough, and neither was anything McIlroy could muster.

McIlroy couldn't make a putt early. He couldn't hit it close enough late. His last good chance was a 15-foot birdie attempt on the dangerous Road Hole at No. 17, and it narrowly missed to the left. McIlroy needed eagle to tie him, and his chip through the Valley of Sin had no chance.

Smith won for the third time this year, all on entirely different courses — the generous fairways of Kapalua, the visual intimidation of water on the TPC Sawgrass and the oldest links in the world with its double greens and pot bunkers.

He beat the No. 1 player in the world (Jon Rahm) at Kapalua. He beat the best field in golf at The Players Championship. And he had to overcome a four-shot deficit against a heavy crowd favorite to capture his first major.

AP

Cameron Smith, of Australia, holds the claret jug trophy as he poses for photographers on the 18th green after winning the British Open golf Championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Sunday July 17, 2022.

Even with the silver claret jug in his hands, it was hard to believe.

"All the names on there, every player that's been at the top of their game has won this championship," Smith said. "It's pretty cool to be on there. It really hasn't sunk in yet. I don't think it will for a few weeks. Yeah, it's just unreal."

Smith is the first Australian to win at St. Andrews since Kel Nagle in 1960, when he topped a rising American star named Arnold Palmer, the people's choice.

That's what McIlroy is now. He moved into the void left when Tiger Woods missed the cut in what might be his final Open at St. Andrews. He had support that carried him to the cusp of winning at the home of golf. "The Holy Grail," McIlroy had called it earlier in the week.

All day there was an energy along the humps and hollows of the Old Course, all of them waiting to celebrate McIlroy as an Open champion at St. Andrews.

He gave them little to cheer.

"The putter went cold on me," McIlroy said. "When both Camerons — especially Smith — went on that run on the back nine, I had to dig deep to make birdies. And I just couldn't."

That left Smith, the 28-year-old Aussie known for his grit and his putting stroke, on the 18th green to be introduced as the "champion golfer of the year."

Smith is the first Australian to win the Open since Greg Norman in 1993 at Royal St. George's. Norman was asked not to return this year — there was no indication he was coming — because of his Saudi-funded LIV Golf that has offered millions to attract players like Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau, major champions who finished in the top 10.

But this day belonged to Smith and that putter that answered every test.

McIlroy was playing controlled golf, his only birdie a two-putt from 18 feet on the par-5 fifth. Viktor Hovland, who started the final round tied with McIlroy, was never a factor. He didn't make his first birdie until the 12th hole and closed with a 74.

That run by Smith on the back nine is now part of Open lore.

He hit a nifty pitch to 5 feet for birdie on the short 10th. He was bold to a back pin on the par-3 11th and holed a 15-foot birdie, and he birdied the next two holes from about that length. His fifth in a row was a putt from 90 feet on the par-5 14th, over a huge mound and down the slope to tap-in range that gave him the lead for the first time.

McIlroy couldn't catch up. His lag putting was terrific. That wasn't what he needed. And he got no help from Smith, whose one missed shot set up his biggest challenge.

The Road Hole bunker was between him and the flag on the 17th. He used his putter to ride over the right edge of the bunker and onto the green, 10 feet away, and he poured in another putt, this one for par to stay in front.

Young had his chances in his Open debut. He left short a 6-foot putt with about a foot of break on the 15th. He came up short with a wedge on the next hole. He drilled his drive and approach to the 17th, only to leave another birdie chance short.

He finally delivered, but all that got him was a 65 and the silver medal. In two majors this year, the PGA Tour rookie missed a playoff by one shot at the PGA Championship and made his best putt too late at St. Andrews.

Smith made his last birdie and the engraver went to work on the claret jug, a prize first awarded to the 1873 champion at St. Andrews. There's a lot of history around this gray, old town, and Smith became part of it in a big way.

Blazers beat Knicks to win NBA summer league title

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Brandon Williams scored 22 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to an 85-77 victory over the New York Knicks in the NBA Summer League championship game on Sunday.

It was the third time Portland played in the championship game since 2017, and its second title since.

The Trail Blazers got 36 points from their reserves, led by Jabari Walker, who finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Trendon Watford finished with 19 points and seven rebounds for Portland and was a unanimous choice for game MVP honors.

"They made a run in I think the late third or the fourth," Watford said. "We stuck together and when we came back in, we turned it up and I'm just proud of all these guys man."

"It was big time, our chemistry came together since day one and I'm just proud of all these guys."

The Knicks, with coach Tom Thibodeau sitting courtside, had five players finish in double figures. Quentin Grimes scored 19 points.

Miles McBride had 17, while Jericho Sims added 13 and Feron Hunt and Micah Potter each chipped in with 10 for New York.

Portland, which came into the game ranked third during the summer league with 42.8 rebounds per game, outrebounded the Knicks, 37-32.

The Blazers, who defeated New York 88-77 earlier in the event, didn't find their rhythm until the start of the second quarter of the championship, when they opened with three straight 3-pointers that gave them a 21-14 lead. They went on to hit seven 3-pointers in the quarter to build an 11-point lead they'd take heading into the locker room, 41-30.

The Blazers pushed their lead to 16 in the third quarter, with a 60-44 lead built on the strength of 10 points at the rim.

Portland rode its defensive tenacity to the championship, but it was New York's defense that frustrated the Blazers to start the game. Both teams came out relatively sluggish, with a splash of sloppiness mixed in, as the Knicks shot 5 of 15 (33%) from the floor and the Blazers were just 3 of 12 (25%) from the field.

Raptors 80, Bucks 69

Abu Kigab scored 15 points to lead six Toronto players in double figures and grabbed 10 rebounds to help the Raptors beat Milwaukee.

Christian Vital, Ryan Hawkins and Christian Koloko added 11 points apiece for Toronto and Alex Barcell and Ron Harper Jr. each scored 10.

Lindell Wigginton led the Bucks with 11 points and Dewan Hernandez scored 10.

Suns 84, Pacers 69

Louis King hit four 3-pointers and finished with 14 points, Tyson Carter scored 12 and Phoenix beat Indiana.

Kameron Taylor and Ish Wainwright added 11 points apiece for the Suns.

David DiLeo, Jermaine Samuels Jr. and Kendall Brown each scored eight points for Indiana.

Pelicans 107, Thunder 71

John Butler Jr. hit six 3-pointers and scored 25 points on 9-of-9 shooting, Elijah Stewart added 20 points and nine assists, and New Orleans cruised to a win over Oklahoma City.

Dereon Seabron scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Pelicans. Deividas Sirvydis had 17 points and Amadou Sow scored 10.

Gabe Brown hit five 3s and led Oklahoma City with 23 points. Jaden Shackelford scored 15 and Vit Krejci added 13 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two blocks.

Wizards 87, Warriors 77

Quenton Jackson scored 18 points and Jaime Echenique added 17 points and 12 rebounds to help Washington beat Golden State.

Devon Dotson and Pat Spencer added 11 points apiece for the Wizards.

Mac McClung led Golden State with 14 points and six assists. Lester Quinones added 13 points and Alex Morales scored 10. James Wiseman finished with 11 points on 5-of-13 shooting with six rebounds and two blocks.

Jazz 82, Nuggets 72

Jared Butler had 14 points and six assists, Justin Robinson scored 12 points and Utah beat Denver.

James Palmer Jr. added 10 points for the Jazz.

Adonis Arms was the only Denver player to score in double figures, finishing with 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting, including 4 of 4 from 3-point range.

Da Misters tops 'Sets for Pets' again

LEIGH GASES

Da Misters emerged victorious once again during the 2nd Annual "Sets for Pets" Beach Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza. The team is seen posing with Boonie Babies puppies and Boonie Babies co-founder Grace Keilbach, left

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Da Misters once again dominated the "Sets for Pets" Beach Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza.

The team included dad Tyce, mom Angie, and kids Blake, Logan, and Dylan who swept the double-elimination tournament.

They first defeated Bad Beaches, 15-10, then beat Quad Squad 15-9, before advancing to the finals with a 21-7, 15-3 win over Practice Squad.

Da Misters then faced Snoopy in the finals of the co-ed 4 vs. 4 beach volleyball competition.

The eventual champions started off the match strong, taking the lead with a 21-14 first set victory against Snoopy, winning the second set 21-9, and capping the third and final set, 15-7.

Boonie Babies posted on their Facebook page after the tournament and said "Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2nd Annual Sets For Pets a success! We are so thankful to everyone who gave it their all on the sand and the individuals/organizations who supported us behind the scenes! We are so excited to continue putting on events that bring the community together to promote animal welfare on-island! Congratulations to Team Mister for taking the tournament for the second year in a row! Saipan friends, please help us thank our local sponsors by supporting their businesses. Because of their generosity, we are able to continue our mission."

Although no dogs were adopted out, Grace Keilbach, Boonie Babies Saipan co-founder, said she hoped their mission of community outreach about their organization was spread and recognized. She said an estimated $500 was garnered throughout the event.

The sponsors who donated cash and prizes to the event included The Angry Penne, Gold's Gym, The Shack, Marianas Creations, RJ Liquor, TK Solutions Saipan, Poki Yaki, Cha Saipan, T-Bar, Pualani Crown, and LoneFox.

Boonie Babies was founded in 2018 as a small rescue group to aid the community and animals of Saipan. Their mission is to rescue, foster, and adopt out as many boonie dogs as possible, and to educate the community about the value of the special island 'breed'. Feeding rounds are operated every day by volunteers, in which stops are made to packs of starving strays to deliver water, a meal, and the kindness these dogs deserve, but they are unable to take in any more dogs at this time.

Donate to their Paypal: booniebabiessaipan or Venmo: booniebabies. Find them on Instagram: @booniebabies, TikTok: @stay_wavy_baby. Check their website: https://booniebabiessaipan.com, or email them at islandrescue@booniebabiessaipan.com.

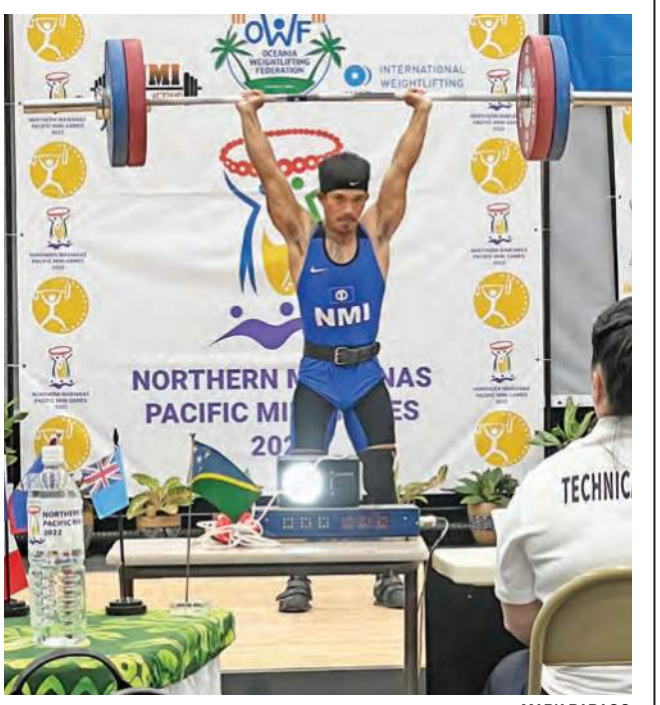
Weightlifters wanted for Micro Games, Pacific Games

CNMI Weightlifting is calling on all weightlifters and persons interested in the sport of weightlifting to attend a meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room this Saturday, July 23, at 4pm.

Topics of discussion are the 2023 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands and the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Specific topics to be discussed will include eligibility requirements and selection criteria for the CNMI National Weightlifting Team.

For further information, contact CNMI Weightlifting secretary general Jeanne Rayphand at jeanneesq@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***



MARK RABAGO

The CNMI's Ray Santos in action during the weightlifting competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	64	28	.696	
Tampa Bay	51	41	.554	13
Toronto	50	43	.538	14½
Boston	48	45	.516	16½
Baltimore	46	46	.500	18

Central Division

Minnesota	50	44	.532	
Cleveland	46	44	.511	2
Chicago	46	46	.500	3
Detroit	37	55	.402	12
Kansas City	36	56	.391	13

West Division

Houston	59	32	.648	
Seattle	51	42	.548	9
Texas	41	49	.456	17½
Los Angeles	39	53	.424	20½
Oakland	32	61	.344	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	58	35	.624	
Atlanta	56	38	.596	2½
Philadelphia	49	43	.533	8½
Miami	43	48	.473	14
Washington	31	63	.330	27½

Central Division

Milwaukee	50	43	.538	
St. Louis	50	44	.532	½
Pittsburgh	39	54	.419	11
Chicago	35	57	.380	14½
Cincinnati	34	57	.374	15

West Division

Los Angeles	60	30	.667	
San Diego	52	42	.553	10
San Francisco	48	43	.527	12½
Colorado	43	50	.462	18½
Arizona	40	52	.435	21

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSE

From Page 20

Rose I's marlin actually was the lone billfish caught in the abbreviated derby as the Saipan Fishermen's Association decided to reduce the competition to a one-day affair due to high gas prices.

As a prelude to announcing the winner of the grand prize, emcee and SFA board member Curtis Dancoe said the crew of *Rose I* followed a trend of late boaters winning.

"Last few derbies boats that have left late placed in several of the categories… This year the same thing happened. This boat was the last to come out and they never entered a fishing derby prior to this year…That's gonna sting a little and goes to show it's anybody's catch," he said.

And Tony Tenorio happily agreed.

"I know it's beginner's luck…pure luck. We came back around 9:30am to weigh the fish and went out again but we didn't catch anymore," he said.

Juan Tenorio also clarified that their crew wasn't actually late, saying that they were the last to launch because other boats took their sweet time leaving the Smiling Cove Marina.

Tony Tenorio added they will use some of the money to celebrate the win with the elder Tenorio adding that what's left they will divide among the crew minus expenses.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that the crew of *Robalo* won the Paradise Dental Spa-sponsored heaviest yellowfin award after catching a 125.5-lb fish. Results of the heaviest wahoo, heaviest mahi, heaviest skipjack, and total weight category winner will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

In all, 88 boats took part in the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament with about 20 of them steaming from Guam, Rota, and Tinian.

NMI

From Page 20

models as we continue our preparations for the AFC tournament," Mita added.

The men's U20 team, which is composed of goalkeepers Mark Chavez, Vicente Reyes, and Merrick Toves and field players Jerald Aquino, Anthony Austria, Dev Bachani, Taka Borja, Kohtaro Goto, Ruben Guerrero, Akira Kadokura, Brian Lubao, Rintaro Miyawaki, Ariel Narvaez Jr., Daniell Pablo, Cody Shimizu, Leo Takahashi, Brandon Tenorio, and Markus Toves, was the second squad that the NMIFA sent to Guam this month for a training camp. The first one was the NMI Women's National Team. Completing the men's delegation were assistant coach Jireh Yobech, team manager Davy Laxa, and goalkeeper coach Ronnel Ocanada.

The team kicked off their camp at the Guam Football Association National Training Center with an afternoon training session last Wednesday, followed by a morning training session the next day. Then last Thursday evening, the NMI players saw action in their first training game and shut down the Guam U20 National Team Pool, 5-0.

"Although some of Guam's national players are off-island, their pool is still competitive, and we were able to play against a team with a different standard and that is hard to find in the NMI," Mita said. The visiting squad then had its second duel against their Guam counterparts last Saturday evening before returning to Saipan last Sunday.

Meanwhile, the NMIFA thanked the Guam Football Association headed by president Tino San Gil for hosting the NMI players anew and giving the national team an opportunity to play in training matches which the squad definitely needs, as the AFC qualifier is just around the corner. ***(PR)***

NICKO

From Page 20

great competing because he was trying to set an example for her daughter, Nickole.

"I never want her to feel alone and if she's going to do this for a while she's gonna need a little encouragement. This was my way of showing her that I will never let her do anything I wouldn't do myself. If I'm going to tell her to be the best version of herself, I'll have to do the same," he said.

And Nickole did more than what her father did as the Lambs Elementary School in North Charleston student won two gold medals in the 5-year-old division in the Gi and No-Gi.

"I am extremely proud of her," said the elder Salem.

Nickole Salem's mother is Maria Victoria, who is originally from Garapan, Saipan.

Nicko graduated from SSHS in 2012 and worked for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan before choosing a career in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 2014, he became the first recruit from Saipan to earn the coveted company honor graduate for Company M after completing his boot camp training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California.

The Salem family last visited Saipan in Christmas of 2017, which also happened to be the first time Nickole met her paternal grandfather, Ricardo Salem.

Mariners win 14th in row, Rodríguez key hit to beat Rangers

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Sports

Da Misters tops 'Sets for Pets' again

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Rose 1 nets mightiest marlin

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Captain Tony Tenorio and his crew came out smelling like a rose when they reeled in the heaviest marlin of the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Saturday.

With *Rose 1* winning with their 131.1-lb catch, Tenorio and crew mates Juan Tenorio, Franklin Iguel, Jun Tenorio, Joey Castro, and Norman Tenorio won the Governor's Cup along with the grand prize bounty of $3,000 courtesy of MarPac and Budweiser.

And their winnings didn't stop there, as Tony Tenorio and company also won the $6,000 side bet.

Juan Tenorio, the boat's senior statesman, said they caught the 131.1-pounder about 4 miles north-east of Saipan.

"When we first went out there were six boats trying to hook fish from two schools… I told the boys 'we need to get out of there because we will end up tangling all our lines.'"

He continued that *Rose 1* avoided the traffic and went on its own to one of captain Tony Tenorio's preferred spots.

"So we got out and we went 30 minutes north-east of Saipan and we waited. From there our captain said 'put down the big lures.' We started heading back to Saipan and as soon as we were 3 miles from Saipan I said 'let's do this!'"

And that's when the not-so monster marlin took the bait and the rest was history.

"Marpi Reef…that's where the fish were at…[it took] 30 minutes [for us to land it] and we caught just using regular lure," said Tony Tenorio.

See ROSE on Page 19

FLOYD MASGA

Juan Tenorio of *Rose 1* poses with the grand prize-winning 131.1-lb marlin during the 38th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina weigh station.

Nicko Salem runner-up in middleweight class

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nicko Salem made a good example for his daughter and won a silver medal for it.

The Saipan Southern High School alumnus and former San Antonio, Saipan resident entered in the 2022 NewBreed Summer Championship in Raleigh North Carolina last July 9 and won a silver medal.

"I got second place for that division. I fought in the middleweight class 170-180 lbs and I had two opponents—one from the U.S. and the other from Spain," the U.S. Marine said.

To take part in the 2022 NewBreed Summer Championship, Salem said he trained two hours a day, four times a week before the competition.

Salem said even though he didn't win gold it still felt

See NICKO on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicko Salem poses with his daughter Nicole after the former won a silver medal in the middleweight division of the 2022 NewBreed Summer Championship in Raleigh North Carolina last July 9.

NMI U20 preps for AFC qualifier, holds camp in Guam

The NMI Men's U20 National Team held a training camp in Guam last week as part of its preparations for the 2023 Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup Qualification.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and NMI head coach Michiteru Mita brought 18 players to Guam for the training camp, which he said will help them in their team building and improve their chemistry.

"The squad played against high-level players and we will use this opportunity to recognize areas of improvement, such as team building and chemistry, for the 2023 AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualification," Mita said.

The NMI is in Group D of the 2023 AFC Cup qualifier, joining host Jordan, Chinese-Taipei, Syria, and Turkmenistan in the pool. The qualifying competition will be held at the King Abdullah II Stadium in Amman from September 10 to 18.

"Having completed a training camp in February and last weekend, we are hoping for better collective team plays in attacking and defending, and we will be using different play

See NMI on Page 19